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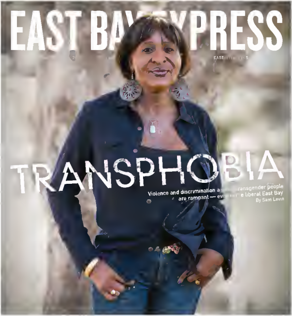

TRANSPHOBIA

Violence and discrimination against transgender people are rampant — even in the liberal East Bay

By Sam Levin

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On the Cover *Janetta Johnson. Photo by Stephen Loewinsohn.*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS

LETTERS

Why Black Students Are Avoiding UC Berkeley
Feature, 11/06

Courageous Truth-Telling

I want to commend J. Douglas Allen-Taylor on the fine article he wrote about the alienation African-American students experience at UC Berkeley. This is a courageous act of truth-telling and a strong antidote to the irritating shouts of "Go Bears!" and the other examples of superficiality that are used endlessly to sell the university to the public. More attention needs to be devoted to solving the problems students experience at UC Berkeley, supposedly one of the best public universities in the world, instead of worrying about the performance of the football team.

I'm a white male and I remember how lonely and overwhelmed I often felt while attending UC Berkeley. If it wasn't for a few professors who I was blessed to have as instructors, people who were devoted to teaching and sincerely cared about their students, I would have spent my years there thinking I was nothing more than a student identification number passing through classrooms. One of my teachers, a gifted young English professor, Edward Snow, whose words still resonate in my mind today (how often does that happen?), was denied tenure. Ever since I learned of that decision, I've wondered about what the real mission of UC Berkeley is. Is it a place filled with bureaucrats who congratulate themselves on having careers or a place that provides the service of education? Clark Kerr's vision for higher education in California is sadly fading away.

I remember, too, coming from the so-called Inland Empire of Southern California, how I often had to contend with the snobbish and elitist attitudes of students who came from places like Beverly Hills High School. I can only imagine what it must be like for a person of color to try to be "at home," let alone succeed academically, in this type of environment. Thank you for having the courage to publish this as a cover article!

Mike Palmer, Berkeley

Compare Yield Rates

This article contains some interesting anecdotal information, but the statistic it cites to bolster its thesis — "nearly 58 percent of black students who were admitted to Cal between 2008 and 2010 ultimately chose to go to college elsewhere" — is taken out of context and actually makes the opposite point. The proportion of African-American students admitted to Berkeley who choose to enroll there is actually higher than the overall average for all applicants. In 2012 UC Berkeley's "yield" of 35 percent of African-American admittees who enrolled there was higher than its overall yield of 32 percent and higher than for any other US ethnic group. Only 27 percent of white admittees enrolled at Berkeley, 33 percent of Asians, and 27 percent of Latino admittees. The data on yield rates for UC Berkeley by race/ethnicity for each year from 1997 to 2012 is available at: http://Diversity.Berkeley.edu/undergraduate-students-new-freshmen-yield-rates.

Sam Delson, Sacramento

Factories of Segregation

Here is one small voice asking, what happened to the concept of integration? Why is it that there are all these organizations that segregate the races on campuses rather than single integrated organizations that bring the races together? Does anyone in academia realize that once these students graduate to the real world and get a job they will not be racially coddled? Do Caltrans, Google, Kaiser Permanente, AT&T, or Chevron have separate human resources departments for each racial group of employees? No, they do not because in the real world the employees of every race work as one, together. They are integrated. Is there a "counselor" riding the Muni bus that travels the Chinatown route in San Francisco to help members of the Caucasian race feel better about themselves since they are vastly outnumbered by Asians? Of course not. What does any learning institution having a race-based entity such as, for example, the African American Student Development office at Berkeley reinforce? It reinforces segregation, saying to those it serves "you are not like others, perhaps not as good as others, and therefore you need help from us to make you equal." This is counterproductive to integration, especially to impressionable minds that have not yet ventured into the workplace.

The survey quoted in the article mentions that "only 57 percent of Berkeley's African-American students said they agreed with the statement 'students of my group are respected at this campus.' The university's own analysis called this result 'the lowest feelings of respect' of all student groups. The low ranking also remained steady between 2008 and 2011 with African-American students feeling of respect on campus scoring 20 percentage points below that of the next highest student category, Chicano/Latinos, and 25 percentage points below gays and lesbians." Did anyone among the esteemed university academics think to survey these groups in the general US population (outside the university population) to see how they feel respected in the real non-academic world? Perhaps African Americans in the general population also feel not respected and this feeling is naturally carried on into the campus environment as African-American students enter it. That makes it a universal problem, far beyond the purview of any university. Thankfully, these learning institutions do not issue black, Asian, Hispanic, or Caucasian degrees upon graduation — every degree earned has the exact same honor and certification of achievement. The academic environment making up the pathway to earning those degrees ought to reflect that: a non-racial, fully integrated community reinforcing equality by demonstrating equality to those about to enter our society. Otherwise these halls of learning are nothing less than factories of segregation.

William Thompson, Walnut Creek

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Confusing System for Everyone

Mirna Chang's article makes clear how difficult it is for a non-native speaker to navigate the intricacies of the new health coverage. What is missing, however, is that those difficulties are almost as severe for native speakers.

This is the system, overly complex and confusing. It is important to note always in such articles that these difficulties would be resolved if the whole country adopted a single-payer system where everyone was covered and health care became a right.

Of course that would cut the big insurance companies out of the picture. Naturally, that would never do.

Rich Yorman, Oakland

[illegible]

Municipal Indifference

Always nice to see an article on waste in the *Express*: this was done pretty well although my own perspective would be slightly different.

The core of the problem is municipal indifference in the face of rapidly escalating disposal costs and a general increase in lawlessness. The fees at Davis Street Transfer Station have increased from $19 per ton in 1989 to $140 per ton today, probably three or four times the rate of inflation. Bureaucrats and do-gooders justify the rate increases, more than a little caused by public fees laid on top of what the garbage company gets to keep, but there's also been a general deregulation of rate-setting for disposal in the county. Several counties in the state have resorted to parcel taxes to support disposal costs, in large reasons to keep tipping fees low and to avoid illicit dumping.

The cities, unfortunately, do very little to help the independent trash haulers stay in business. When I ran the North Oakland Recycling Center on upper Telegraph (1983-1989) my strategy with the lawless was to back my truck into their trucks and put dents in their side panels and front bumpers. If I'd had a tank, I would have used it. I was often robbed but never, to my knowledge, by the same people twice. When the city gets serious and consistent about enforcement, locking up trucks in a yard where towing charges and storage fees run into the hundreds of dollars very quickly, the problem will disappear. Maybe if Oakland defined its illegal dumpers as a homeland security risk, it could deploy the cameras Uncle Sam is paying for on the hot spots for dumping instead of on the citizens walking down the street.

In 1990 the city made a push on dumping in East Oakland. Railroad Avenue was a major target and the enforcement found that over half of the criminals were from out of town, and were not Oakland residents. The weariness of Oakland's first line responders is well known about Oakland (see Mr. Gallo's remarks) and whatever the council says it will do is always tempered by a discouraged workforce and a city attorney used to civil lawsuits and not street corner enforcements.

The article also states that "the cash-strapped city already spends $3.3 million a year on contending with illegal dumping." It would have been nice to know if the dump fees from the city's trucks that collect dumped trash are paid for by all ratepayers with moneys never seen by the city (there are a number of gimmees in the collection contract that the public pays for in its rates for which the costs are never directly assessed to the city), or if some of that $3 million mentioned above comes back to the garbage company in charges assessed on the city's trash collectors cleaning up after the illegal dumpers. If it is the latter case, then the city could take its once dumped, now collected, trash to a cheaper location where lots of salvage work could be done and jobs made. Otherwise, the city has no economic stimulus.

Although not really its intention, the great omission in the article is a discussion of the large private recycling industry based in Oakland that serves the entire Bay Area with scrap materials acquisition services that nurture small loads from local collectors into truckable quantities, then shipping materials through the Port of Oakland to locations and materials re-users all over the world. It's a wonderful story all too often overlooked in assessing Oakland's role in the Bay Area.

Finally the article notes that "there have been no serious discussions in City Hall about creating or supporting sustainable solutions to the city's illegal dumping problems ..." That is all too true and some of Dan Knapp's ideas on sustainable disposal and my own low-tech interests could be stirred but the current council and staff appear to be part of the same old, same old. Waste is way down the line on most lists of problems for Oakland or anyplace else, but as the world's population continues to grow (three billion more people now than forty years ago) and we now have ever more clearly a world of finite resources, crunch time for what we throw away is getting ever closer.

Arthur R. Boone, Owner of the Center for Recycling Research, Berkeley

Correction

Our November 6 cover story, "Why Black Students Are Avoiding UC Berkeley," misstated the name of the campus survey that found that only 57 percent of Cal's African-American students said they agreed with the statement "students of my group are respected at this campus." It was the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey — not the University of California Campus Climate Survey. ●

SEVEN DAYS

BART'S GENERAL MANAGER SHOULD RESIGN

The unraveling of the transit agency's contract deal with its unions is yet another example of why Grace Crunican is not qualified for her job

By Robert Gammon

After the news broke late last week that BART's Board of Directors was planning to reject a tentative deal that its own negotiating team had reached with the transit agency's unions, much of the attention focused on a disputed family medical leave provision. BART officials say they made a "mistake" when they agreed earlier this year to a six-week paid family leave benefit because they contend it will be too costly. In truth, however, the real mistake the BART board made came more than two years ago when it hired Grace Crunican to be the agency's general manager.

Crunican, who had no experience overseeing a rail line, promptly ignored warnings about safety at BART from state regulators, and then ultimately presided over a deadly crash that killed two workers last month. She also convinced BART's board earlier this year to hire a contract negotiator who works for a private transportation company that has a history of union busting and illegal behavior. And that negotiator, Thomas Hock, quickly alienated BART union members, portraying them as greedy and out of touch, and then went absent during critical stages of the negotiations — but not before signing the family leave provision that could lead to a third BART strike this year.

In retrospect, Crunican was simply not qualified for the job — and still isn't. Although she had been the director of the Seattle Department of Transportation for eight years, that agency does not oversee rail transit in the Seattle area. And then once she arrived at BART, Crunican has continued the agency's tradition of ignoring safety warnings issued by the state. California regulators had long been concerned about a BART rule that required track workers to effectively fend for themselves when trains were in operation. The state repeatedly recommended that BART end the practice, but the agency steadfastly refused — a dangerous tradition that Crunican embraced.

Then in April, as the contracts for two of BART's major unions — ATU and SEIU — were on the verge of expiring, Crunican asked the BART board to hire Hock, a lawyer for Veolia Transportation, a private transportation company. At the time, BART's in-house labor relations manager was handling union negotiations, but in a memo to the BART board, Crunican's staff said she had "determined it to be in the best interest of the District to hire a consultant [Hock] to provide traditional bargaining services" and pay him $300,000 for a few months of work.

According to records of the April 11 BART meeting, there is no indication that Crunican told the BART board that Hock and Veolia Transportation have a long history of illegal behavior, as the *Express* noted earlier this year. Veolia also has a strong interest in privatizing public transportation systems. It holds the private contracts to run the transportation systems in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona, which both endured a six-day bus strike in 2012 that unions blamed squarely on Hock. "Tom Hock was the cause of the strike here in Phoenix and Tempe," Bob Bean, president of the ATU in Arizona, told *Express* contributor Darwin BondGraham earlier this year. "Hock's not a negotiator. All he knows how to say is 'no.' He does not try and solve any issues."

Hock's typical strategy in union negotiations is to portray union members as being overly greedy and unreasonable. He took the same approach at BART. John Logan, a professor of labor relations at San Francisco State University who closely watched this year's BART negotiations, recently described Hock's attitude as being "poisonous." Union members, as a result, grew angry at the way they were being portrayed to the public, and then hardened their negotiating positions, leading to a prolonged, ugly stalemate and two strikes.

Hock also made matters worse by going AWOL during much of the negotiations, saying he was "unavailable," even though taxpayers were paying him $300,000 to reach a deal at the bargaining table. Crunican was no better. She repeatedly refused to sit down with union leaders to hash out their differences despite several requests to do so.

Then last month, during the second strike, Crunican green-lighted the decision to train BART managers to drive trains in place of experienced union drivers. It was during one of these training runs that two longtime workers were killed in a crash between the Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill stations. And it wasn't until after the crash that Crunican, Hock, and BART reached a tentative deal with the unions. After the deaths, the agency also finally abandoned its rule of forcing track workers to be responsible for their own safety.

However, after Hock signed the tentative deal, Crunican's staff said they discovered that he had made a "mistake" by agreeing to the family medical leave provision and that the BART board had never intended to agree to it. This assertion appears to be highly dubious. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported earlier this week that Hock actually signed off on the provision three months earlier, in July, and so Crunican, who makes $322,000 a year plus benefits, must have been aware of it. If not, then, at minimum, she's guilty of incompetence or gross negligence.

Although BART has since terminated Hock's contract, the unions say they have no intention of renegotiating the deal. They contend that the agreement on the family leave benefit was no mistake and that Hock was well aware of what he was doing. However, if the BART board continues to refuse to agree to the tentative deal, then the transit agency will face yet another stalemate — and a possible third strike.

In other words, Crunican's actions have proved definitively that she's ill-suited to run an agency as important as BART. As such, she should resign. And if she refuses, the BART board owes it to the public to fire her and find a qualified replacement. ●

Seven Days is culled from our blog of the same name.

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OAKLAND MAYOR'S RACE HEATS UP

Councilmember Libby Schaaf likely will run against Jean Quan at a time when the mayor is enjoying some successes. But will progressive voters care?

By Robert Gammon

Councilmember Libby Schaaf's likely entrance in the 2014 Oakland mayor's race promises to be a game-changer. Inside Oakland political circles — and even at City Hall — Mayor Jean Quan had widely been viewed as a vulnerable incumbent who might nonetheless be reelected. Although her poll numbers have been miserable, she appeared to have a good shot at a second term because the only other announced candidates in the race — Joe Tuman, a political science professor at San Francisco State University, and Port Commissioner Bryan Parker — have never won elected office.

Schaaf's candidacy, however, likely will make it much more difficult for Quan to win, particularly if no true progressive candidate emerges in the months ahead. Indeed, if the race comes down to Quan versus the more moderate Schaaf and Tuman, many progressives may decide to sit out next year's election.

Jean Quan

Regardless, Quan's candidacy should not be underestimated. She likely will have the support of organized labor, and she has never lost an election during her two decades in public office. She's also a formidable candidate, having run the best campaign in the 2010 mayoral contest — by far. Going door-to-door for months throughout the campaign, she doggedly outworked her competitors, and she inspired 1,000 volunteers to make calls and seek out voters on her behalf. She also deftly used the city's ranked-choice voting system, urging residents to make her a second or third choice on their ballots, which ultimately propelled her to victory over ex-state Senator (and top earner of first-place votes) Don Perata.

And though she had a rocky first two years in office, Quan has had several successes in 2013 that could fuel her reelection bid. Violent crime is down this year in every major category except robberies. And the Oakland Police Department is finally making some progress on its court-mandated reforms. In a recent report, independent court monitor Robert Warshaw stated that OPD's overall compliance with the reforms was at "the highest level" since his team first began auditing the department several years ago.

Quan also was instrumental earlier this year in convincing private Chinese investors to bankroll a $1.5 billion housing project — known as Brooklyn Basin — on the city's waterfront. That project is now scheduled to break ground in 2014. She also helped attract deep-pocketed investors to develop Coliseum City, a multibillion-dollar project that could include a new stadium for the Oakland Raiders and, possibly, new facilities for the Oakland A's and Golden State Warriors. And she played a key role in the launching of the $500 million Oakland Army base redevelopment this year, which is expected to generate about 1,500 construction jobs and 1,800 permanent ones.

In a recent interview, Quan said the Army Base project was in trouble earlier this year. She said she got a call in January from Jim Ghielmetti, chair of the California Transportation Commission, who had serious concerns about whether the project would break ground in 2013 as promised. Ghielmetti then threatened to redirect $242 million in state funds earmarked for the Army Base to other transportation projects in the state. "We were about to lose that money," Quan said. "They were going to take away that $242 million."

Libby Schaaf

But Quan, her administration, and project developer Phil Tagami got the development back on track, and it broke ground last month, ensuring that it didn't lose the $242 million. "She did her job," Tagami said of Quan in an interview. Tagami also confirmed that Ghielmetti had threatened to redirect the state funds.

Tagami and other Oakland business leaders — along with some of Quan's supporters — also were surprised by her willingness to team up with Tagami, because he was a longtime ally of Perata and is good friends with ex-Councilmember Ignacio De La Fuente, who was Quan's toughest critic during her first two years as mayor. Some had expected Quan to search for a new Army Base developer after she defeated Perata three years ago. Instead, she stuck with Tagami, arguing that the man who rehabbed the Fox Theater and helped revitalize the city's Uptown district offered the best hope at redeveloping the base. "She hasn't always given us everything we wanted," Tagami said of Quan and his team's requests for the project. "But she has been very fair."

Quan's recent accomplishments, especially with large economic projects, also could help blunt opposition to her in the city's traditionally moderate business community. Over the years, Oakland business leaders have viewed her as being too liberal and not sufficiently pro-business. Moderates and conservatives also have contended that she's too soft on crime, because she has not embraced tactics like stop-and-frisk and youth curfews. They also criticized her for not cracking down on Occupy Oakland soon enough. And she has resisted calls to dramatically beef up Oakland's police force, noting that it would require the city to gut all other public services, including parks and libraries.

Nonetheless, at least one former longtime city business leader is now fully embracing the mayor's reelection bid. Michael Colbruno, an ex-leader of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce's political action committee, which typically backs moderate politicians and candidates, is now Quan's campaign co-chair. Colbruno believes that Quan has not received credit in the mainstream press for her accomplishments, and that she's far more pro-business than people realize. "I've worked around a lot of mayors in my life — including Willie Brown and Jerry Brown — and she's the hardest-working mayor I've ever seen," Colbruno said. "She goes 24-7. She never stops."

Work habits notwithstanding, the mayor will have to overcome the personal dislike that many moderates and conservatives — and some progressives — have for her, according to several people interviewed for this report. They say the mayor is too often focused on self-promotion, doesn't accept criticism well, and is not a good listener. Quan also has a history of saying things that are not true — and then having embarrassing news stories printed about her mistakes. For example, she repeatedly claimed early in her mayoral tenure that most of the city's violent crime was relegated to just one hundred blocks in the poorest sections of East and West Oakland. However, Urban Strategies Council, a respected nonprofit in Oakland, later conducted a detailed analysis of the city's crime data and found that much of the violent crime takes place in a significantly larger area — about 1,300 blocks.

Quan's perceived personal shortcomings also provide an opening for Schaaf. The former aide to Jerry Brown and De La Fuente had been viewed in the past as being more moderate than Quan. But since she was elected to the council in 2010, representing Quan's old district (Montclair-Laurel), Schaaf has gradually moved to the left. In fact, she has often sided with the mayor and with fellow liberal councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan, Pat Kernighan, and Nancy Nadel (before she retired) against the more conservative De La Fuente (before he left office) and Larry Reid. Schaaf even came out against youth curfews during a recent council committee meeting. Schaaf also is well liked and has strong approval ratings in her hills district — much better than the mayor does, even though Quan represented that district for eight years on the council.

Joe Tuman

In an interview late last week, Schaaf said many people have approached her and asked her to run for mayor and that she is "seriously considering" it. Although she declined to say she's definitely in the race, she is now widely expected to officially launch her campaign as early as next month. An advocate for better government transparency, Schaaf also said she believes Oakland deserves "stronger and more competent leadership."

Schaaf's candidacy, meanwhile, also could spell trouble for Tuman. They have similar political views — although he's a bit more moderate now that Schaaf has moved closer to Quan politically — and thus the two likely will draw on many of the same supporters and donors. In an interview last week, Tuman advocated for increasing the size of the city's police force from the current 630 or so cops to 900 — about 200 more than Quan's plan — in the next few years. He also said he would support a curfew, at least on a trial basis. He said he does not believe Oakland will be able to attract a significant number of private-sector jobs until it reduces crime substantially. Tuman, a longtime political analyst for TV news, finished fourth in the 2010 mayor's race, behind Quan, Perata, and Kaplan.

A Quan-Schaaf-Tuman race also could leave Oakland without a true progressive candidate. Many progressives have yet to forgive Quan for her administration's harsh crackdown on Occupy Oakland. "I think it's still very much an issue," said Dan Siegel, a longtime progressive and close friend and ally of Quan's who strongly disagreed with her response to Occupy. Siegel and others believe Quan has become too moderate, and has effectively ceded control to her pro-police city administrator, Deanna Santana. In addition, if Schaaf and Tuman, along with Parker, are Quan's only competitors, the mayor could be prompted to move even farther to the right during a campaign in which the issues of the size of the city's police force and getting "tougher" on crime could take center stage.

Such a scenario is becoming a concern for many progressives. In fact, Siegel, a former longtime member of the Oakland school board, said he is considering getting in the race to provide a progressive voice. "It's concerning to me that the race could be between Jean and Libby, considering Libby's politics," Siegel said.

Rebecca Kaplan

Indeed, if no true progressive gets in the race, many liberal voters who are unhappy with Quan may decide to stay home on Election Day, particularly since 2014 is a non-presidential-election year. It also seems unlikely that progressives would vote for Schaaf or Tuman, since they are both to the right of Quan.

As for Siegel, he has been out of politics since 2006, and thus it's unclear whether he has the name recognition needed to win a citywide campaign. That's not the case, however, for Kaplan, who came within 2 percentage points of beating Quan in 2010. Kaplan has twice before won citywide races, having been elected the council's at-large member in 2008 and 2012. And in the most recent campaign, she pummeled De La Fuente by 20 percentage points.

As such, Kaplan would instantly be a top candidate for mayor next year, should she decide to run, and she could inspire progressives to go to the polls. In an interview late last week, she declined to rule out the idea, although she praised the mayor for "working very hard" for the city over the past three years.

A Kaplan-Quan-Schaaf-Tuman race would inject excitement into a race that appeared a few weeks ago as if it might be an election to forget. But jumping into the campaign also would be a gamble for Kaplan. If she were to lose to Quan again, then Kaplan might be damaged politically, having lost two mayoral elections. But if she were to sit out next year's race, and Quan wins, then she'd likely be the frontrunner in 2018.

As a result, Kaplan might not feel compelled to run for mayor next year — unless polling results over the next several months reveal that she has nothing to lose. If polls, for example, show Quan defeating Schaaf and Tuman, then it's a safe bet that Kaplan won't run. But if Schaaf or Tuman is ahead in the polls, then look for Kaplan to get in the race — otherwise she might have to wait until 2022 to become mayor. ■

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Mayor McLaughlin has been on the frontlines of the anti-foreclosure movement nationwide ACCE

NEWS

RICHMOND REFUSES TO BOW TO WALL STREET

Despite lawsuits, threats, and political attacks, the city is forging ahead with plans to create a consortium of cities that would adopt its anti-foreclosure plan

By Joaquin Palomino

Ever since Richmond unveiled its groundbreaking proposal to seize distressed mortgages from banks in order to help keep residents from losing their homes to foreclosure, powerful outside interests have waged war on the city. Big banks and Wall Street investment firms have sued Richmond, claiming that its plan is illegal. Housing agencies have threatened to freeze loans and force the East Bay city of 100,000 people into another recession. And real estate interests have attacked the Bay Area investment firm — Mortgage Resolution Partners (MRP) — that has been working with the city on its anti-foreclosure plan.

And then, earlier this fall, glossy mailers blanketed Richmond as part of a smear campaign against the city's proposal. "Wall Street is back to take another bite" out of your home, the mailers warned. "The Council's heart is in the right place — they are trying to help Richmond homeowners struggling to save their homes, but they've bought a risky plan that could seriously harm the value of your home."

The mailers were financed, in part, by a $70,000 donation from the California Association of Realtors. The National Association of Realtors also provided financial backing but did not disclose how much money it gave to the campaign. The flyers were produced by the same political campaign consultants that organized the anti-soda tax campaign last year on behalf of major beverage companies.

"How shameful is it that some of these state and national associations are trying to meddle and interfere in Richmond's program," said Amy Schur, executive director of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, an economic rights group that supports the city's plan. "This is a community that has come up with a solution to the mortgage crisis that's in their own control."

But despite the attacks by Wall Street, Big Banks, and real estate interests, Richmond is not giving up. The city is forming a coalition of municipalities interested in similar foreclosure prevention programs. And MRP is working to create a Joint Powers Authority with at least five other jurisdictions in California — a move that would allow the individual governments to legally act as one.

In short, what started as a local campaign to save struggling homeowners could balloon into something much bigger. "With the support of other cities we can really provide that leverage to get the banks to come to the [negotiating] table," said Mayor Gayle McLaughlin. "I'm thinking this is now gaining the momentum that we need in terms of creating a national movement."

Although the Bay Area housing market has roared back to life during the past eighteen months, Richmond and many other cities have not yet fully emerged from the foreclosure crisis. Currently, about half of Richmond's homeowners are still underwater on their mortgages — that is, they owe more than their home is worth.

Vicky Conway is one such homeowner. The lifelong Richmond resident bought a house with her husband in the North & East neighborhood of the city in 2004 for $325,000. She estimates it's now worth less than half what they paid for it. "We're not going to be able to retire and continue with the same mortgage payments," she said.

Thousands of Richmond homeowners are in a similar position, and to prevent another wave of foreclosures, the city has proposed buying 624 underwater mortgages at fair-market value. If the banks refuse to sell the mortgages, the city has threatened to invoke eminent domain to seize them. The city and MRP would then refinance the loans and lower the monthly payments so that residents like Conway could remain in their homes.

Realtors, banks, and investment firms, however, worry that the program would set a national precedent — and that other cities would follow in Richmond's footsteps. Banks, as a result, could take a financial hit. And real estate organizations worry that mortgage loans would dry up in Richmond and other cities that adopt its plan, thereby harming the housing market in those areas.

Such fears have sparked a flurry of opposition. The securities industry said that if Richmond follows through with its plan, borrowing costs could increase. The regulatory agency overseeing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac also threatened to restrict or cease business activities in the area if the city moves forward. "Not only will this plan freeze up the residential credit market, it's also making it fairly difficult, if not impossible, for the city to conduct its normal municipal borrowing practices," argued Chuck Finnie, vice president of BMWL & Partners, the consulting firm that organized the attack mailers. "This thing is a house of cards that is about to come down."

And in an apparent attempt to stop Richmond's plan from spreading, a consortium of banks and investors have not only sued the city but also have indicated that they will target seven other communities that are seriously considering the program or are already working with MRP. And although a federal judge dismissed the lawsuit because Richmond had not yet started seizing mortgages, the city will almost certainly face more litigation if it moves forward with its plan.

To shield the city from potentially devastating legal costs, MRP is trying to organize at least five other cities into a Joint Powers Authority, which would allow the separate governments to act as one in court. That would provide another layer of protection for Richmond. "These are big companies — they have a lot of power. They have a lot of money," said City Councilmember Jovanka Beckles. "None of us as individual cities can do it alone, but when we band together we can actually do this."

If the alliance forms, it would mark a turning point for Richmond's program. It no longer would be locally based, and therefore could help thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — of underwater homeowners across the state. The Joint Powers Authority could also make banks and investors more inclined to negotiate a sale of the targeted mortgages, allowing Richmond to avoid having to seize them. "Eminent domain is most definitely a last resort," McLaughlin said. "We continue to call on the banks to sell us the loans voluntarily."

This isn't the first time MRP has tried to assemble a Joint Powers Authority. Last year, San Bernardino County and two Southern California cities that were pushing for a similar foreclosure prevention program formed a JPA for legal protection. The coalition, however, eventually decided against using eminent domain to seize mortgages.

McLaughlin said that the Joint Powers Authority that Richmond is trying to assemble would not back out of the plan like San Bernardino. "[They] didn't have a grassroots effort underway, so Wall Street was able to put out their attacks with no voice countering their lies and misinformation," she said of the previous attempt. Richmond, however, has "a great on-the-ground community effort in place."

The movement doesn't only appear to be gaining traction in California, but also throughout the country. At a rally last weekend, the mayor of Irvington, New Jersey announced that the working-class city would analyze a plan similar to Richmond's. And the cities of Yonkers, New York and Newark, New Jersey are considering the use of eminent domain to prevent foreclosures, according to *The New York Times*.

McLaughlin also recently spoke with civic leaders from eighteen cities considering similar plans. A few of those cities, including Seattle and Baltimore, are "well down the path towards adopting a similar program," said MRP Chairman Steven Gluckstern.

Oakland also is considering lending its support to Richmond. Councilmember Desley Brooks authored a resolution that would express solidarity with Richmond, a city she believes "has had the courage to do something bold." Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan is pushing for a separate plan that would analyze Richmond's program with the hopes of potentially emulating something similar down the road. The Oakland City Council was scheduled to discuss both proposals on November 19.

"WALL STREET THOUGHT THAT IF IF THEY KEPT [THE PLAN] ISOLATED TO RICHMOND THEY WOULD'VE HAD A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF CRUSHING IT, BUT THEY'VE FAILED," SAID SCHUR OF ACCE.

"A lot of other cities are stepping into the fray, which is essential," said Schur, of ACCE. "Wall Street thought that if they kept [the plan] isolated to Richmond they would've had a much better chance of crushing it, but they've failed."

The Richmond City Council plans to revisit the issue sometime in December, and Gluckstern predicts the JPA will be assembled by then.

As for Conway, she's counting on the city to not give up. She and her husband live on a fixed income, and while they've been able to stay current on their payments, they're in a precarious position — any unforeseen expense could push them out of their home. "I'm hoping that something is going to give one way or the other — either the banks work with the city or the city goes down the eminent domain road," she said. "Either way, I'm holding my breath." ●

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CITY OF OAKLAND

Tiffany Woods of TransVision has a memorial wall at her Fremont office honoring local transgender women who have died.

Stephen Loewinsohn

Transphobia

Violence and discrimination against transgender people are rampant — even in the liberal East Bay

By Sam Levin

On the night of April 28, 2012, Tiffany Woods had a hard time sleeping. The program manager of Fremont-based TransVision, which provides health services to transgender clients, spent much of the night tossing and turning, so when one of her former employees, Terry Washington, called her cellphone just before 7 a.m., she didn't pick up. When more calls started coming in, Woods knew something was wrong. Washington's voicemail delivered one of the most shocking pieces of news she had ever received in her long history as a transgender advocate in the East Bay.

"I hate to disturb you, Tiffany," Woods recalled Washington saying in his message. "Brandy's been shot. And she's gone."

Not Brandy, she thought.

Brandy Martell, a 37-year-old transgender woman who had worked for Woods for four years, was shot and killed by a gunman while she and her friends, a group of transgender women, sat in a car near the intersection of 13th and Franklin streets in downtown Oakland in the early hours of the morning. By 7:40 a.m., Woods, who is also a transgender woman, was at the crime scene taking photos of Martell's body, covered with a blanket, lying on the street.

"I heard the gunshots, ran over to the car and see her there taking her last breath," recalled Kayla Moore, a transgender woman who happened to be in the area — a popular hangout for the trans community — at the time. "I'd never experienced somebody dying in front of me." A week later, Moore, who was then involved in sex work, had an emotional breakdown and decided to get off the streets. She now works for TransVision.

It's unclear who killed Martell or why. Oakland police spokesperson Johanna Watson said the department is committed to finding Martell's killer. "We do not want this case to go forgotten," she said.

But some feel it already has. Several friends of Martell believe her murder was a blatant hate crime, because such crimes are all too familiar for transgender people, who often experience violence and discrimination because of the simple fact that their gender identity and expression do not match the ones assigned to them at birth. Even in the liberal East Bay.

"We prepare for death," said Ms. Will, an Oakland transgender woman and longtime Bay Area activist. "We all wonder when it will be our turn."

Transgender rights advocates in Oakland will continue to call for justice for Martell on November 20, which marks the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, the highest-profile event for the trans community in the country — and a depressing reminder of the grim challenge facing this population. Since Martell's death, there have been several attention-grabbing local cases of violence involving transgender victims, notably the controversial death of a trans woman, Kayla Moore (no relation to the aforementioned Kayla Moore), while in Berkeley Police Department custody, and, recently, the case of a gender-nonconforming (or "agender") teenager Sasha Fleischman, whose skirt was lit on fire while on a bus in Oakland.

Although data on hate crimes against transgender people are hard to come by, studies show that transgender people are disproportionately victims of violence compared to the broader LGBT community. A 2012 report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which collects data from LGBT organizations around the country, found that the problem is particularly acute for transgender women of color. Around half of all victims of anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2012 were transgender, and all of them were women of color. (This is the first year that law enforcement agencies will be reporting hate crimes based on gender identity to the FBI, and data won't be published until 2014.) According to Transgender Europe's Trans Murder Monitoring project, there have been 238 killings of trans people in the last 12 months worldwide — sixteen in the United States. The global count has been climbing overall since 2009.

While transgender people face widespread mistreatment — they were 1.67 times as likely to experience threats and intimidation compared to LGBTQ non-transgender survivors and victims of violence in the 2012 anti-violence report — studies and interviews with advocates show that trans women are particularly vulnerable. They face higher rates of discrimination, violence, sexual assault, and poverty. Some are victimized by male partners because they are ashamed of being with them. Others deal with violence associated with sex work. For the women who struggle daily with abuse and harassment — from strangers, boyfriends, and, in some cases, police — it can feel as if society has accepted this reality as the norm, or at least is choosing to ignore it.

"We're expendable," said Breonna McCree, an African-American transgender woman and close friend of Martell. "We expect there will be no justice." McCree, who is a public health specialist, said that when she used to be a sex worker she and other women had the traumatizing task on multiple occasions of helping police identify transgender friends who had been murdered. "[Violence] becomes part of everyday life."

Just one week before her death, Martell was sitting in the living room of McCree's Oakland apartment, talking about the miracle of their survival thus far.

Martell, McCree recalled, told her: "I'm surprised someone hasn't killed me off yet."

On a chilly Friday evening earlier this month, Kayla Moore and two co-workers from TransVision parked their cars at the dimly lit corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 16th Street, just outside of

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the hustle of downtown Oakland. It was after 10 p.m. and the November First Fridays street festival had ended, but for many bars and clubs, the night was just beginning — as was their night shift. They were there to reach out to sex workers, offering them condoms and handing out fliers.

"You hear that? Gunshots," Terry Washington, who works as a health education specialist with the program, said to the others. "We have direct orders to get out of here early."

It was the first time the three had done outreach since the September First Fridays when a 21-year-old woman was shot and killed — shortly after they had asked her if she would be interested in TransVision's services. She appeared to be gender-nonconforming, or "masculine presenting," they recalled, though the advocates did not speak to her for very long. A stray bullet reportedly hit the victim, who was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, according to her family. (OPD did not respond to the *Express*' requests for details regarding the homicide or the shooting involving Martell, and would only confirm that the incidents occurred.) According to Woods, however, the police are investigating whether the shooting stemmed from a comment made about a transgender woman. (Woods said she communicates regularly with cops about the search for Martell's killer.)

"What we do is not glamorous," Woods said during an interview at her Fremont office, where she has a memorial wall honoring local transgender "sisters" who have died over the years. The wall features around forty names — six that the group considers murder victims and most others who died from AIDS — along with various newspaper clippings that display a lack of sensitivity in the media to the transgender community. "What we do gets no attention," said Woods. "We don't get invited to conferences. But what we are doing is changing lives."

The main work of TransVision, a program within Tri-City Health Center, is HIV prevention and education, as well as non-HIV primary care for transgender men and women, including access to hormone treatment. Woods, who lives with her wife and three children in San Leandro, co-founded the program a decade ago in response to the death of Gwen Araujo, a seventeen-year-old transgender woman who was beaten and strangled to death by four men in Newark on October 3, 2002.

TransVision is part of a growing community of organizations who are working on transgender issues in the East Bay. In the last year, four other organizations that work with the transgender community have moved or expanded into Oakland. Meanwhile, advocates have helped advance both state and federal legislation designed to protect transgender people from discrimination. Still, trans advocates in Alameda County say resources for their causes have been sparse, and they have even struggled at times to get support from within the LGBT rights movement.

There isn't enough support for those who are homeless, who face housing and job discrimination, and who are victims of domestic abuse, activists say. Some transgender people may also suffer from mental health problems stemming from family rejection or physical abuse. These issues may not be as headline-grabbing as same-sex marriage, but they are some of the most pressing needs, advocates say.

In a survey of 573 male-to-female transgender women with a history of sex work in Oakland and San Francisco (published in 2011 in the *American Journal of Public Health*), more than two-thirds reported being ridiculed or embarrassed by family members because of their trans identity. One-third of the group reported "daily verbal harassment in adolescence and extreme difficulties in handling the harassment." One quarter said they were physically assaulted in adulthood because of their gender identity or appearance.

According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 41 percent of black respondents said they had experienced homelessness (five times the national rate). Transgender people experience poverty at twice the national rate (for trans people of color, it's four times the national rate), noted the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs 2012 report on hate violence.

This data only scratches the surface of the daily struggle for transgender people. "You have to be on guard all of the time. We go through this every day," said Trisha Wilson, a 52-year-old transgender woman who lives in

Brandy Martell was murdered last year in downtown Oakland.
Courtesy of Tiffany Woods

Stephen Loewinsohn

Kayla Moore's family — father Arthur Moore, stepmother Dynse Paige-Moore, sister Maria Moore, and her sister's partner Carl Sutler — believe Berkeley police officers were insensitive to Kayla's transgender identity.

San Francisco's Tenderloin district. "It's the constant harassment — the fear that someone is going to jump on me, going to attack me, going to stab me. I'm cautious wherever I go."

Wilson said whenever she gets "the look" from passersby, she knows it means trouble. Sometimes, they laugh at her. Other times, the harassment is more threatening.

Jasmine McKay, a 29-year-old transgender woman and health educator who works in Oakland, recalled a time when three men circled her at an Oakland BART station as she pretended to listen to music on her headphones. "They kept walking back and forth around me," she said. "I heard them talking, 'Is that a man? Is that a woman?'"

In the past, McKay would speak out when she was being harassed and shout back, "I am a woman!" — especially when she was beginning the process of her transition.

"Now I'm like, whatever," she said. "I'm not going to start any trouble."

McKay said threats have also come from partners. "There's such a power dynamic with women and men in general, but especially in the trans community. It's like your being trans allows a man to have power over you. They choose whether they want to be seen with you or not, if you're worthy to be seen or not. And if you are with them, they're doing you a favor."

Janetta Johnson, program coordinator with the Oakland-based Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project, said she gets especially frightened when men purposefully refer to her as "he" or "it" or "mister." "That's about the time that somebody is getting ready to attack us. ... It brings up a lot of trauma. They start off by saying you're not who you think you are. That's a big, scary thing."

"I don't think many people understand the degree to which many trans women experience harassment and scrutiny in so many areas of their lives," said Mason Davis, executive director of the Transgender Law Center, which recently relocated to downtown Oakland from San Francisco. "Many gay and lesbian people don't realize how much that [violence] is still happening for trans people."

In the recent case of Fleischman, sixteen-year-old Richard Thomas has been accused of intentionally setting fire to the eighteen-year-old, who was wearing a skirt and who, according to the teenager's family, identifies as neither male nor female but as agender. The alleged violence happened on an AC Transit bus while Fleischman was sleeping.

At Thomas' arraignment, his mother, who identified herself only as Ms. Jackson, told the *Express* that she didn't know why her son did it. "He is very remorseful. I am so sorry to the victim's family and to the victim." Yet prosecutors have charged Thomas as an adult and with a hate crime because the suspect, according to the criminal complaint, "stated he did it because he was homophobic."

(Hate crime charges are rare in Alameda County. Only four were filed or initiated in 2012 and five in 2011, according to the office of District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, although the specifics on the nature of the alleged biases in the cases weren't readily available.)

"We're dedicated to ensuring that justice is served when these crimes are committed," said Teresa Drenick, spokesperson for O'Malley, regarding the Fleischman case. "And we are equally committed to working with the community on the prevention of such actions."

Sometimes, however, the actions of law enforcement officials can have the opposite impact — with devastating consequences.

Around noon on February 12, 2013, Arthur Moore dropped off groceries at the downtown Berkeley apartment of his adult daughter, Kayla Moore. About twelve hours later, he got a call every parent dreads: His child was dead.

Kayla, 41, was a transgender woman who died during a struggle with Berkeley police inside her apartment. The death of Kayla, who was diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic, has sparked debates about access to mental health services, police brutality, and law enforcement sensitivity toward LGBT people — especially transgender women of color. Last month, the police watchdog group Berkeley Copwatch, with help from Kayla's sister, Maria Moore, released a report on the incident, in an attempt to analyze what went wrong on the night of February 12. Kayla's family and Copwatch leaders argue that officers displayed gross insensitivity toward Kayla's transgender identity, as well as negligence in their handling of a mentally ill person. They have recommended that

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In a police file, a Berkeley police officer refers to Kayla Moore as "it."

Courtesy of Maria Moore

Berkeley police reform its mental health crisis response policies and that the department take disciplinary action against the involved officers.

"She was transgender. She was African American. She was mentally ill. She was the trifecta of everything that the officers did not want in that building," said Maria. Kayla's family is now preparing a wrongful death lawsuit against the Berkeley Police Department.

Berkeley police officials declined to comment on the specifics of the Copwatch report, but according to their own 348-page investigation report, Kayla was pronounced dead an hour-and-a half after police officers arrived at her apartment, having responded to a call from her concerned roommate. According to the roommate, Kayla was intoxicated, argumentative, and off of her medications. When police officers arrived, Kayla allegedly became agitated and paranoid about their efforts to apprehend her. Police said she became "increasingly aggressive" when an officer told her she would be going to the police department for a warrant stemming from a San Francisco case (that was unconfirmed). During an initial struggle, two officers and Kayla, who weighed 347 pounds and was unarmed, fell onto a mattress on the floor, the report said. At that point, she was lying on her stomach.

The officers called for backup. Three more officers arrived to help restrain Kayla and eventually she "appeared to be calming down" and "suddenly stopped resisting." One minute later police reported, her chest stopped moving and she had no pulse. She was transported to Alta Bates Summit Medical Center where she was pronounced dead at 1:34 a.m. The autopsy report stated the official cause of death as "acute combined drug intoxication."

"I call bullshit," Maria said of the autopsy report. "It was the struggle that killed [Kayla]."

For Maria, one of the most disturbing parts of the police files was a transcript of an interview with an officer who reportedly refers to Kayla as "it." In a copy obtained by the *Express*, the file reads: "From what I could tell and I — again I couldn't tell if it was a male or female because I could te- I could see that there appeared to be long braids. Um, and I remember asking ... is it a male or a female?" the officer said.

"That part hurt the most," Maria said, through tears. "It really struck a chord and showed their lack of sensitivity and their lack of training." The police report also refers to Kayla by her birth name, Xavier, and uses male pronouns.

The Copwatch report stated that this uncomfortable attitude toward Kayla's gender and body "may have played a critical role in the officers' decisions about how to respond or what first aid they were willing to provide when she stopped breathing."

"Kayla was dressed as a woman. She had her little moomoo on, her wrap around her head," Maria said. "Even if you're not sure of the gender, don't refer to someone who is dead as 'it.' It's just not okay." She said she questions whether the officers did everything they could to help revive her sister. "It makes me wonder, did they just not want to touch her lips? Did they just not want to touch it? I don't know."

According to Elysse Paige-Moore, Kayla's stepmother, the police report shows that Kayla felt frightened specifically because of officers' insensitivity to her transgender identity. "I don't think [Kayla's] reaction was strictly 'I'm in physical danger.' Clearly, part of it was also, 'Who I am is in danger. I feel threatened by these people. No. I'm not safe. I'm not respected.'"

Jennifer Coats, spokesperson for the Berkeley Police Department, refuted that notion. "One of our goals in the department is to make sure we treat everyone with respect and dignity," she said. "It's one of our core values. ... We treat you with respect regardless of your gender identity." She added that officers always try to use preferred gender pronouns and "address each individual as they want to be addressed."

But Lonnie Mansour, a licensed marriage and family therapist and director of clinical training at the Pacific Center in Berkeley, which provides mental health services for LGBT people and their families in Alameda County, said she has offered the Berkeley Police Department free trainings to ensure cops are sensitive and respectful when interacting with the LGBT community. "We were told that it wasn't really needed," said Mansour. "My experience is that there are very few large law enforcement agencies that are comfortable with the transgender community."

In response, Coats said all officers receive training in cultural diversity and discrimination in the police academy and that the department has hosted LGBT trainings in the past. She confirmed that the Pacific Center has presented information on its training, and said the agency would be interested in doing something of that nature in the future.

Berkeley police also offers "crisis intervention training." Training coordinator Jeff Shannon said the program trains officers to "look for opportunities to de-escalate suspects. ... It's part of professionalism to use the least amount of force possible." He added that the goals of the program are to increase the safety of both suspects and officers, and to divert those with mental health challenges "away from the criminal justice system where they don't belong and back to the community for treatment." The class includes a section on LGBT and diversity issues and "awareness-building."

However, the courses are not mandatory. According to Shannon, only eighteen current police officers have taken crisis intervention training classes, and only seven of them work patrol.

None of those officers were at Moore's apartment the night of her death.

Growing up in South Berkeley, Kayla, then known as Xavier, was always very feminine. "It was never no issue [in the family]," Kayla's sister, Maria Moore, recalled. "When I was three years old, one of my fondest memories of Xavier was him in my nightgown I got for Christmas, walking around in it, looking so cute," she said. "He came out [as gay] when he was thirteen, but it wasn't a shock. He was in full drag at that time."

"My brother taught me how to put makeup on, taught me how to dance," added Maria, who is 35, two years younger than Kayla. Their father and stepmother, who still live in Berkeley, were always accepting of Kayla's sexuality and gender identity, she said.

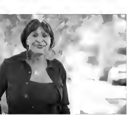
Xavier transitioned to Kayla about fifteen years ago, Maria recalled. She took hormones regularly but ultimately decided not to undergo surgery. "She knew she was a girl," Paige-Moore, Kayla's stepmom, said. "Her core identity is that she is female."

But Kayla struggled with violence because of her transgender identity, homelessness, drug addiction, and mental illness, Maria said. She estimated that Kayla, who worked at times as a phone sex operator, was badly beaten at least several times a year.

"It's really alarming," she said. "So many times, Kayla would just come back [home] beaten to a pulp because she had to fight off these guys. She was the victim of so much abuse. ... It was the relationships she got into or the assholes on the street. It just happened too many times." Maria said people often think of transgender women as drug addicts and sex workers relegated to the streets of San Francisco's Tenderloin district, and in a way, that neighborhood was sometimes the only place where Kayla felt safe or accepted.

According to Kayla's family, the daily threats of violence and discrimination contributed to Kayla's mental instability. "I don't know how anybody who identifies as transgender doesn't struggle with some stress disorder," Paige-Moore said. "Even though transgenderism is not a mental illness, it comes with it its own set of stresses."

Mansour of Berkeley's Pacific Center explained it this way: "People don't come for treatment because they are transgender. They come for treatment because of the way other people treat them." She estimated that her agency sees about fifty to sixty transgender individuals a year. "They are losing their jobs. They are not being offered jobs. They are being harassed in the workplace. Their family is locking them out."



Janetta Johnson said she was required to serve her time in a men's prison, where she was regularly sexually assaulted. She now helps transgender women navigate the process of reentry after incarceration.

Stephen Loewinsohn

Perhaps not surprisingly, there is a high rate of post-traumatic stress disorder in the transgender community, noted Davis of the Transgender Law Center. "It's real and it takes a toll."

The consequences can be deadly. Just this month, Woods said she received emails from the concerned friends of two transgender women who had posted suicidal messages on social media, one who was hospitalized as a result. Both women, she said, had dealt with various forms of family rejection in their lives. Soon after, Woods also learned of a 25-year-old transgender woman from Concord — identified as Natalia Nemza — who apparently jumped to her death onto Interstate 680 in Walnut Creek on November 6.

Advocates say the mental health challenges for some transgender women stem from, and are greatly exacerbated by, their long and complicated relationships with the criminal justice system. Janetta Johnson, of Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project, spent three-and-a-half years behind bars in a medium-security federal prison for a drug offense. Johnson transitioned to a woman at the age of seventeen, but because she never had gender reassignment surgery, she was required to serve her time in a men's prison. As a result, she said she was frequently victimized, assaulted, taunted, mistreated, and denied medication, yet she had no safe or reasonable way to speak up, she said. Out of more than 1,300 inmates, Johnson said she was the only transgender woman at her federal correctional institution in Oregon, where she was sent after her arrest and conviction in San Francisco.

"They do everything in their power to make you devalue yourself," she said. "The criminal justice system tries to strip you of your identity. Just because you go to jail, it doesn't mean your transgenderism stops or your transition stops. ... I felt like I had been so stripped of my identity as a trans person."

Johnson said that her cellmates regularly sexually assaulted her. Guards sometimes forced her to strip just because they were curious about her body, she said. Health-care providers interrupted her hormone therapy for no apparent reason, which exacerbated her depression. She picked her battles.

"The only reason I managed was that I very carefully and selectively and strategically negotiated with people that wanted to take advantage of me sexually," she said. "I felt so humiliated, so degraded."

Inmates are discouraged from reporting rape or assault because they will be placed in solitary confinement or segregated housing allegedly for their own protection, Johnson added. She said she spent about six months in segregated housing — at one point with a cellmate who demanded sexual favors from her on an almost daily basis.

Chris Burke, spokesperson for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, said that segregated housing is used "to keep an inmate safe," but noted that it can also be used for disciplinary reasons. He said that inmates who want to report an assault can go through a grievance process, and that with transgender people, "We do treat gender identity disorder inmates on a case-by-case basis."

Johnson was released from prison on May 12, 2012 and moved into a halfway house in the Tenderloin. Five days later, she suffered a severe panic attack and was hospitalized. Fortunately, Johnson had been in contact with the Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project while in prison, and eventually got a job with the group. But she said it has been a long road to emotional recovery. Part of her work involves helping transgender clients navigate the process of reentry after incarceration, and she said it can be re-traumatizing for her to even discuss abuse and violence.

"I'm just crying and crying and crying when I'm hearing all this stuff," she said, describing some training sessions she has attended for work. "There are times I just wanted to scream."

Many transgender women reentering society after prison often feel like they have no recourse if they are assaulted or victimized. "Once you become an ex-offender, you can never be a victim," she said, explaining that she would be very reluctant to call police if she faced violence today for fear of being re-victimized or arrested.

In other words, the obstacles transgender people face — lack of job opportunities, housing, and support — are amplified for ex-offenders, Johnson said. "[In prison] the transgender community ... is to be used and not respected. The only thing [others believe] we're really good for is to suck somebody's dick and get fucked in the ass." Once outside of prison, she said, it can be challenging to find any sources of income other than sex work. Finding basic mental health support can also be a struggle.

Johnson grew angry while relaying a story about one of her current clients, who was recently released from a twenty-year prison sentence and was unable to get an initial intake appointment with a mental health professional for more than a month after being released. Inmates, she explained, are essentially on their own in navigating social services, making it very easy to slip through the cracks.

"I am so fucking outraged at the response of mental health care and medical care for someone who is being released from prison, after doing twenty fucking years," she said. "How do you not make sure this person is okay?"

Transgender Gender Variant Intersex Justice Project and the Transgender Law Center are two of several trans-specific groups new to the East Bay. City of Refuge, a ministry that does HIV prevention and works with the trans population, also relocated from San Francisco. (The high cost of rent in San Francisco has generally prompted the moves.) At the same time, AIDS Project of the East Bay this year launched a new East Oakland-based project called the Transgender Resources and Advocacy Center for Youth, or TRACY House, which is supported in part by a federal grant for African-American transgender young people, ages 13 to 29. The community center hosts private support groups and has drop-in hours throughout the week.

Some see this influx of services in Oakland as an encouraging sign for the East Bay transgender community. These organizations bring social services to the East Bay as well as new layers of activism. But programs like TransVision still wrestle with the lack of trans-specific funding for work outside of HIV prevention and treatment — an area in which resources are already limited. TransVision currently has the only Alameda County contract specifically for transgender HIV education and prevention services. The program has generally received most of its funding from the Alameda County Office of AIDS Administration, which provided $70,000 in fiscal year 2012. (The department funds other HIV agencies that have transgender clients, but those organizations are based on specific service categories and not populations). TransVision also recently secured a new federal grant through 2017 to support transgender women of color with HIV.

Advocates say increased support is much needed in the East Bay, considering that, just like the organizations themselves, transgender people priced out of San Francisco are moving across the bay. "It just seems like more and more of our clients and our community members are locally living in the East Bay," said Davis, executive director of Transgender Law Center. "This brings us closer to our mission." (Transgender Law Center, however, remains focused on impact litigation and policy, not on direct services.)

Meanwhile, positive movements have occurred on the national level — notably when the US Senate this month passed the

Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which, for the first time, included specific protections for transgender people (a sticking point in past ENDA debates). Congress also passed a new version of the Violence Against Women Act earlier this year, which includes protections for gay and transgender citizens.

In California, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation into law that boosts the rights of transgender students by enhancing anti-discrimination practices. AB 1266, which goes into effect in January, ensures students can participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities, such as restrooms and locker rooms, that are consistent with the student's gender identity. The law is the first of its kind in the country.

But it has also sparked organized opposition from a coalition calling itself *Privacy for All Students*, which is working to repeal the measure with backing from the groups behind the anti-gay-marriage Proposition 8. This month, the coalition announced that it collected enough signatures to qualify for the November 2014 ballot. (Opponents frame the law as a danger to students, claiming male students will be able to shower with girls.)

"They have decided the sky is going to fall if we actually allow our kids who are transgender to stay in school," said Davis.

He argued that this legislation is significant in the broader fight for transgender rights, noting, "every civil rights movement ... has had a bathroom moment." He cited attempts to maintain "whites only" bathrooms, resistance to adding women's restrooms at newly co-ed universities, and the fight for bathrooms accessible to disabled people. With every victory, he said, "We actually move our culture to a more humane space."

Is the fight for transgender rights on track to be the next major civil rights movement? One of the biggest obstacles to making that happen is the lack of visibility of trans people.

"WE PREPARE FOR DEATH," SAID MS. WILL, AN OAKLAND TRANSGENDER WOMAN AND LONGTIME BAY AREA ACTIVIST. "WE ALL WONDER WHEN IT WILL BE OUR TURN."

"Our very existence makes people uncomfortable," said Alameda County Superior Court Judge Victoria Kolakowski, who became the first transgender person in the country to hold such a position when she was elected in 2010. Davis said that only about 10 percent of Americans personally know a transgender person, and Kolakowski could only name one other transgender elected official who currently holds office in the country.

Kolakowski said a fundamental challenge with trans visibility is that many in the community don't want to identify as transgender at all and have little incentive to do so given the risk of violence and discrimination. "I'm not transgender. I'm a woman. I'm a man. To them it's a transitional phase."

She added, "Given the stigma, many people who can pass [as the gender they've transitioned to] try to do so. And the group of people that can't pass can't get work and are marginalized."

Despite this roadblock, Kolakowski said the fight for transgender rights is "the next civil rights issue. ... It's not just that we're going to be trendy or something. This is a fact."

The attacks from national conservative groups will further push transgender rights to the forefront, she said, exposing the public to more trans people — who, she argued, are uniquely valuable members of society given that they are so determined to live as their authentic selves that they are willing to put up with all of the hardships that come with transitioning.

"What started out as this little sort of fringe issue for people is now going to start taking more and more of the spotlight, and the answer to that is real simple," Kolakowski said. "The transgender community has to step out into the light and let people know who we are. That's the only way we are going to be successful."

This month, as transgender people around the world honor victims of transphobia, the conversation in Oakland will be particularly pressing — especially given the recent attack on Sasha Fleischman. The victim's family said the teenager's burns required multiple surgeries.

"It's unfathomable," said Jason Overman, spokesperson for Oakland City Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, the first out lesbian on the Oakland City Council, who will speak at the Transgender Day of Remembrance at City Hall, alongside Mayor Jean Quan, Oakland Interim Police Chief Sean Whent, and Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney. "We obviously still have work to do." The fact that the perpetrator in the case was swiftly charged — with hate crime enhancements — "demonstrates how far we've come," he added.

Still, for those who have been forced to mourn the loss of loved ones because of homophobia or transphobia, the "hate crime" label can feel pointless — a stiffer sentence that will only go so far in preventing future violence. "A human being was lit on fire," Woods said. "Let's just process that for a second." It is a lot to take in, she said, especially considering current opposition to basic anti-discrimination policies for transgender youth.

Foremost, Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremonies are about remembering the deceased. "Brandy [Martell] should've been on a sitcom," said McCree. "She was one of the funniest people I ever met in my life. Once she met you one time, she could imitate you to a tee."

"She was a very, very warm-spirited person," said TransVision's Kayla Moore. Woods said Martell had the unique ability to never make enemies, a characteristic that made her an especially effective team member.

"She was becoming the woman we all wanted to be," added McCree.

Martell is one of many who will be honored on November 20, more than a decade after the first Transgender Day of Remembrance. Activists first held the event in 1999 to honor Rita Hester, an African-American transgender woman killed in Allston, Massachusetts, the previous year.

Her murder remains unsolved. ●

Sam.Levin@EastBayExpress.com

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Nina G. is one of about thirty women who've attended meetings of Belles and Chimes. Susan Cohen

CULTURE SPY

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Oakland's Belles and Chimes is the first women's-only pinball league

By Susan Cohen

Of the six pinball machines in the dark upstairs rooms of the pizza joint Hi Life in downtown Oakland, Nina G. prefers *Batman Dark Knight*. The local comedian can rack up 17 million points by dodging the Scarecrow's Crane or fighting the Joker as easily as the Batman himself, while the average player, at best, can only pick up a couple of million. It's her game.

In the minutes before a Sunday night meeting of Belles and Chimes, Oakland's women-only pinball league, you can find Nina whipping away at the machine's flippers, stomping her boots whenever the ball doesn't go her way.

Nina is one of about thirty women who've attended one of Belles and Chimes' meetings since the league was established a few months ago. The group's founder is a woman Nina refers to as the "Gloria Steinem of pinball"—Echa Schneider (who also used to run the local news blog A Better Oakland).

Apparently, pinball's gender issues extend beyond the bikini-clad babes featured in the artwork of certain machines. The top 25 players in the world, according to the International Flipper Pinball Association, are all dudes. And for female pinball players in the Bay Area, the male-dominated pastime can be, at times, unapproachable.

In the year since Schneider started playing pinball competitively, the Oakland resident has attended a lot of competitions and league events. Usually she's one of only a few women there. "I don't believe that women are not interested in pinball, but it is very intimidating for women to go by themselves to very male-dominated, very competitive environments," Schneider said.

So she started her own club, offering a friendlier, more supportive environment for women looking to compete. Currently Belles and Chimes is the only all-women pinball league in the world that Schneider knows of, although it's already spawned fledgling imitators in Seattle and Norway.

Women pay $10 dues for the privilege of being an official Belles and Chimes member (and to pay for trophies and refreshments at the season's finale in December), but newbies can play for free at their first meeting (not counting quarters for the machines). Each meeting has attracted more than a dozen players of all skill levels, from as far away as Marin County. Some of the women haven't played pinball since they were a kid, while others have only occasionally sacrificed a few quarters when they spot a machine at a bar. Some have made the rounds in the local leagues, and at least one member has her own personal pinball machine collection.

Belles and Chimes' inaugural season began in September, and meetings have been held on Sunday evenings and Monday nights. Schneider opens the gatherings with announcements, including a list of area tournaments. She asks the attendees to introduce themselves with a pinball-related icebreaker, like listing their all-time favorite machines. At a recent meeting, she also passed around cards for the players with November birthdays.

Then players break up into groups of three or four, splitting multiplayer games on three different machines. The highest scorer at each machine is awarded a certain number of points, with fewer points given for second place, and so on. When each group is finished, they reassemble into new ones for a second round. The woman with the top total score at the end of the night is the winner — Schneider took the title at last week's meeting.

While other male-dominated leagues might group players according to skill level, Belles and Chimes is more egalitarian. While there are still winners and losers, Schneider tries to de-emphasize the competitive spirit. "I think it's really important, especially for beginning players, in terms of improving your pinball skills, to watch more experienced players," she said. "It really makes you better to play with a wide variety of people."

Preschool teacher Sally Sparks has been playing pinball her whole life, but she's only a few years into her competitive career. She met Schneider through coed leagues and local tournaments, and when Sparks first heard about Belles and Chimes, she said she was psyched by the idea of an all-women's game. "Naturally, if there's going to be a girls' pinball league, I'm going to be there," she said.

Sparks is a pinball wizard who usually prefers to play alone, and she feels a lot of eyes on her when playing with men — not in a sexual sense, but in a competitive, cutthroat kind of way. "With all the guys, it just feels really uncomfortable sometimes, and I just never really feel like I'm playing my best when I'm around them," she said. "They're competitive; they're really in it to win it, and I get really overwhelmed."

At a Belles and Chimes meeting, the competition is friendlier, and the ribbing is more good-natured and less aggressive than what some Belles and Chimes members say they've dealt with in coed leagues. "I think a lot of women respond to the fact that it's just really about the social environment ... and teaching each other tricks," Sparks said. "I feel like I play really well around the girls, the ladies. I think other women have been responding to that, too."

> "I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WOMEN ARE NOT INTERESTED IN PINBALL, BUT IT IS VERY INTIMIDATING FOR WOMEN TO GO BY THEMSELVES TO VERY MALE-DOMINATED, VERY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENTS," SCHNEIDER SAID.

Belles and Chimes will end its season with a party at the Pacific Pinball Museum on December 8. The next season is tentatively planned to start early next year, but in the meantime Schneider plans to organize some informal meet-ups around the Bay Area. She's pretty excited to experiment with different playing formats, like a split-flipper event.

Yeah, that means one player on each flipper. The possibilities are endless. ●

For more information on Belles and Chimes, contact BellesandChimesPinball.com or BellesandChimesPinball@gmail.com.

A version of this story, with audio and a slideshow, also appears on OaklandNorth.net.

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You may have seen numbers like these around the internet when you're trying to upload files to your website, set up the office network, or troubleshoot your router. What do they mean?

These numbers are called IP addresses. They're the numbers computers use to find each other on the internet and other networks, just like the post office uses street addresses to find your house. Normally you visit websites by using human friendly domain names like example.com or blog.janusnetworks.com. But those names don't necessarily always refer to the same computers or servers, like when you're moving your website to a new web host. IP addresses, on the other hand, will likely stay attached to the same server as long as that server is in use.

Did you know that you can enter an IP address in your browser's URL bar just like you would for a domain name? It will bring you to the default web page for that server. (Caveat: Depending on how the server is set up, this is not always the same page as the home page for that website.) This is also how you can access your router's dashboard – by entering its local network IP address in your browser. It'll probably be on 192.168.1.1 or an IP address very close to that.

If you want to find the IP address for a website, you can use an online tool like the one at KLOTH.NET. The IP address(es) for the domain are listed in the "answer section." janusnetworks.com uses two IP addresses – 38.99.124.181 and 38.99.124.182.

Try it! Put your domain name into the tool, and find your own IP address.

By Sharon Campbell

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Some items at the Queer Art & Craft Fair

Creating a Queer Craft Scene

Bay Area artists Jen Lorang and Lex Non Scripta organize a craft fair to celebrate the work of queer artisans.

Craft fairs may feature such disparate items as yarn chandeliers and fake taxidermy, but Bay Area artists Jen Lorang and Lex Non Scripta thought they were missing something. "There wasn't much representation of the queer and gay community," said Lorang, a jewelry designer based in Oakland. "We were frustrated with the lack of diversity." At craft fairs, she would often be the only queer vendor. "It could be isolating," she said. "I wanted to go to a fair and connect with people on a social and political level."

Lorang partly attributes the lack of diversity in DIY crafting culture to its rising popularity. "Shows are getting more difficult to get into because the market is getting saturated," she said. "Fairs are trying to make money, and to make money you need to appeal to a wider audience, which is a straight audience." With table fees often costing hundreds of dollars, Lorang and Non Scripta also saw that artists with limited economic resources were getting shut out. "There are so many people in our community that are making things that don't have access," said Lorang. "We wanted to create an avenue for people who are interested but don't feel like they know where to go."

After venting to each other and other artist friends for years, Lorang and Non Scripta decided last spring to create a showcase for queer artists, particularly queer artists of color, where the vendors could express their artistic viewpoints without trying to cater to a particular audience. "We wanted to acknowledge the diversity of Oakland artists and accept things geared toward hip-hop or queer culture," said Lorang.

In their efforts to make sure that more than just their circle of friends was represented, the two asked six other artists to help them curate the Queer Art & Craft Fair, which will take place on Saturday, November 23, at the Temescal Art Center (511 48th St., Oakland). They were uncertain what the response would be, so they were pleasantly surprised when they received sixty applications. Due to space constraints, they decided to prioritize struggling artists who could benefit more from the exposure and sales; ultimately, they selected thirty queer artisans, 60 percent of whom are of color.

The fair will feature prints, ritual candles, leatherwork, jewelry, illustrations, and clay sculptures. There will also be food and beverages, as well as a "healing space" where massages will be offered. Lorang and Non Scripta hope that it will be a networking opportunity for the crafters.

Beyond wanting to create a queer-friendly environment, Lorang and Non Scripta also want to use the showcase to fight against the growing trend of cultural appropriation among crafters. "The appropriation of Native American culture is just the horrible trend that will not die," said Lorang. "Towels with little tee pees, feather headdresses — it's infuriating."

1-8 p.m., free. TheMagicMakers.Wordpress.com

— Zaineb Mohammed

ATTRACTIONS

Art Nouveau Tour Docent tours of pioneering architect Julia Morgan's Mediterranean/Gothic "little castle." Sun., Nov. 24, 1-3:30 p.m. free. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Bay Street Tree Lighting Annual tree lighting ceremony featuring an all-new Sound and Light Show Tree. Free photos with Santa, hot chocolate, holiday music, a special appearance by [illegible] and dance by [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m. and Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-655-4000, BayStreetEmeryville.com.

[illegible] Fashion show by Underground Runway, a platform for unsigned and under-recognized [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m. Vessel Gallery, 471 25th St., Oakland.

Knights and Princesses Come Science in knight and princess costumes to make your own Science Art and knight armor at Playland. Sat., Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

Laserium: Pink Floyd Classic laser light show set to the music of Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon*. Sundays, 1:15 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 9:15 p.m. $12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Laserium: The Beatles [illegible] laser light show set to songs from the Beatles. Saturdays, Sundays, 1:15 p.m.; Fridays, 7:15 p.m., $12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

Light & Sound Christmas Tree New daily light and sound show will accompany the [illegible] at the Bay Street Mall. Nov. 21-Dec. 31, free. Bay Street Mall, 5616 Bay St., Emeryville. 510-655-4000, BayStreetEmeryville.com.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

Great Dickens Christmas Fair Over three acres of old-world theatrical halls are transformed into a Dickens holiday world of dancing, feasting, entertainment, and shopping with more than 750 authentically dressed actors. Starting Nov. 23. Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 22. $25 for adults, $12 for children. Cow Palace, Geneva Ave., San Francisco. 415-404-4111, CowPalace.com.

Patchwork Indie Art & Craft Season Craft fair showcasing [illegible] from more than 140 local artists, crafters, and designers and DIY [illegible]. Sun., Nov. 24, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Piedmont Avenue Craft Fair Crafts, how-to demonstrations, make-and-take tables, and book signings. Sat., Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Piedmont Avenue School, 4314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-879-1480.

Queer Art & Craft Fair Magic Makers presents a marketplace and reception for Bay Area queer crafters featuring over 25 artists, a healing space for massage and bodywork, food vendors, and beverages. Sat., Nov. 23, 1-8 p.m. Temescal Art Center, 511 48th St., Oakland, 510-923-1074, TemescalArtCenter.org.

The Vintage Meet Pop-up shop with vintage clothing, jewelry, and accessories as well as music and food. Saturdays, 12-7 p.m. Vamp, 301 10th St., Oakland.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

The Art of Erotic Dance [illegible] erotic dance workshop, erotic tips and tools for negotiation, costuming, and roleplaying, and pick up some choreography to help incorporate erotic dance into your sexual repertoire. Thu., Nov. 21, 7-9:30 p.m. $15. Feelmore510, 1703 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-891-0188, Feelmore510.com.

The Art of the Nonjudgmental dance The repertoire is an experiential exploration of the Principle of no judgment through touch, movement, and [illegible] philosophy. Sat., Nov. 23, 9:30

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PICKS

Mustache Bash

For those confused by the abundance of scruff this month, Movember is when men around the world grow mustaches to raise awareness about men's health issues. Whether your mustache-growing efforts have resulted in robust facial hair or a scrawny 'stache, celebrate your trimming and grooming at Pyramid Alehouse's (901 Gilman St., Berkeley) Mustache Bash. The facial hair-themed festivities will include a barbershop quartet and a balloon-shaving contest, as well as a photo booth and beer and food specials, the proceeds of which will go toward Pints for Prostates. Sign up to follow partygoers and size up your competition as you wait to find out who will take home the prize for Best in Show (for those who started growing at the beginning of the month) and Most Professional 'Stache (for everyday mustache wearers). — *Zaineb Mohammed*

Thursday, Nov. 21, 5:30 p.m., free. PyramidBrew.com/Alehouses/Berkeley

Berkeley Half Marathon

Runners, rejoice — Berkeley will host its first half marathon this weekend. Beginning in Civic Center Park (2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way), the 13.1 mile course winds through the UC Berkeley campus, downtown, and the marina, so the route is sure to be scenic and, more important, downhill. (There are also ten-mile and ten-kilometer routes.) At different checkpoints along the way, runners will be treated to performances by the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra's Cello ensemble and Christopher [illegible] and his five-piece band. When you make it to the end, enjoy well-deserved food, drinks, and a massage at the finish line. For the athletically disinclined, wildly cheering spectators are always appreciated. — *Z.M.*

Sunday, Nov. 24, 7:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $50-$85. BerkeleyHalf [illegible]

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a.m.-8 p.m. $75. The Essence Center, 6073 Claremont Ave., Oakland, 510-428-0937, [illegible].

Feldenkrais Through [illegible]: Series of [illegible] exercises, each lesson provides an experience that leads to improved coordination, flexibility and balance, creating greater physical comfort and relaxation. Wed., Nov. 27, 10:30 a.m.-noon, $15/session. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237, JCCEastBay.org.

Parkinson's: Balance and the Art of Moving: Practice balance, coordination, stretching, loosening joints, breathing, walking, turning, and recovering from a fall. Try vocal workouts and speech training, [illegible] breathing, and reading poetry and texts aloud with attention to pace, rhythm, and articulation. Tue., Nov. 26, 10:30 a.m.-noon, $120/month. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237, JCCEastBay.org.

Yoga and Movement for Parkinson's Disease: Focus on stretching, strengthening and balance. Particularly addressing muscles and postures affected by the progression of Parkinson's disease. Mondays, Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Wed., Nov. 27, 11:30 a.m.-noon, $120/month. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237, JCCEastBay.org.

KIDS

Angela Tomlinson: [illegible] Sat., Nov. 23, 4 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville, 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

Art with Laurel: Artist, designer, and illustrator Laurel [illegible] hosts a special crafting event. Fri., Nov. 22, 3:15 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Ste. 190, Oakland, 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Bobby Joe Ebola and the Children MacNuggits: Presenting two new books, *Meal Time With The Devil* and the [illegible] *Bobby Joe Ebola Songbook*. Sat., Nov. 23, 3 p.m. The Escapist Comic Bookstore, 3090 Claremont Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-6642, EscapistComics.com.

[illegible] Barnes: The local author reads from her new book, [illegible]. Sat., Nov. 23, 2 p.m. Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, 650-591-8286.

Holiday Jewelry Workshop: Make a signature gift for your family or friends with artists from the Book, Paper [illegible] Alameda. Sat., Nov. 23, 2 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

Tote Bag Printing Workshop: Create your own T-shirt or tote bag with the artists from the Book, Paper [illegible] Oakland Collective. Wed., Nov. 27, 3 p.m. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 1427 88th Ave., Oakland, 510-615-5727, OaklandLibrary.org.

Tom [illegible] and Dean Harper Triplett: The author and illustrator share their new book, [illegible]. Fri., Nov. 22, 5 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 5604 Bay St., Emeryville, 510-547-0905, BarnesAndNoble.com.

PETS

[illegible]: The Bay Area's finest [illegible] Sat., Nov. 23, 11:30 a.m. [illegible] 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com.

Doggie Paws: Professional photographer will capture a holiday photo of you and your pet. Sat., Nov. 23, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sun., Nov. 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., $30. Holistic Hound, 1510 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-843-2535, HolisticHound.com.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Berkeley Chanukah Fair: Fair featuring live [illegible] Chanukah [illegible] by local Bay Area [illegible] by a professional storyteller, [illegible] Sun., Nov. 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Congregation [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-9442, [illegible].

Anniversary Thanks Celebration: "We've Come This Far By Faith: Celebrating [illegible] Years of Service" is the theme of this [illegible] celebration. Newly appointed Pastor Rev. Anthony L. Hughes [illegible] and his wife and partner in ministry [illegible] Hughes will be [illegible] Sun., Nov. 24, 9:30 p.m., [illegible] St. Paul A.M.E., 2024 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2060, AMEChurch.com.

[illegible], Festival of Light: Join the JCC East Bay for latkes, menorah-making, arts and crafts and storytelling. Fair Trade [illegible] will have beautiful menorahs, [illegible] candles, gelt, and small gifts. [illegible] available for purchase. Sun., Nov. 24, 3-6 p.m., $8 suggested donation. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Berkeley Branch, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237, JCCEastBay.org.

Kabbalah Healing Sessions: Include [illegible] meditations and presentations about how Kabbalah's mystical Tree of Life can help participants [illegible] of every month. 3-5:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29, $10 donation. Art House Gallery & Cultural Center, 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170, [illegible]WordPress.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Gathering: Meet people, eat, drink tea, and discuss [illegible] Sun., Nov. 24, 1-3 p.m. [illegible] donation. Julia's Coffee & Tea, 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2160, [illegible].

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Berkeley Half Marathon: Participate in a 13.1 mile, 10 mile, or 10K point-to-point race [illegible] showing off Berkeley's best [illegible] from the city center to the UC Berkeley campus and the waterfront and marina. [illegible] Sun., Nov. 24, 8 a.m., [illegible].

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland Raiders, Tennessee Titans: The Oakland Raiders play the Tennessee Titans at the Coliseum. Sun., Nov. 24, 1:05 p.m., $35-$300. O.co Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121, Raiders.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

ART GALLERIES

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PICKS

Voulkos, Inspired

Voulkos, Inspired demonstrates the many ways in which the influence of one spectacular artist can manifest in the works of others. The late Peter Voulkos was known internationally for his dense, abstract clay sculptures that seemed to embody a raw spontaneity. A long-beloved teacher at UC Berkeley and founder of the university's ceramics department, he also had a reputation for motivating others to abandon utilitarian ceramics and embrace expression through bold, poetic forms. *Voulkos, Inspired* highlights some of these instances, showcasing work by local artists that draw inspiration conceptually and aesthetically from Voulkos' revolutionary body of work. The group exhibition, now on view at Kala Art Institute's Berkeley Central Arts Passage (2033 Center St., Berkeley), features a range of media including sculpture, video, photography, and weaving. Leah Rosenberg's collection of sculptures resembles colorful, weather-worn books made through the layering of acrylic paint. Meanwhile, Randy Colosky offers playful, abstract bronze sculptures that rethink the lost-wax casting process by incorporating utilitarian pieces artistically. Even more playful are Double Zero's (Anne Vaught and Hannah Ireland) video and photographs featuring people as sculptures, costumed in headdresses made of found objects. — *Sarah Burke*

Through December 6. Kala.org

Art by Double Zero

[illegible]

[illegible]

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MUSEUMS

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Shadravan's Art Gallery
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SLATE contemporary
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Studio Quercus
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Vessel Gallery
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The Wall Gallery
473 25th Street

Warehouse 416
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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Berkeley Action Comedy A special evening of directed comedy featuring cutting-edge comedy from up-and-coming comedians from around the Bay and beyond. Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. $5. The Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, LegionnaireSaloon.com.

Crossroads Comedy Night A weekly comedy show hosted by [illegible] and [illegible]. Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. MLK Cafe, 3800 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-[illegible].

Layover Comedy Mike [illegible] hosts [illegible] a half dozen Bay Area comedians. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m., free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1517 OaklandLayover.com.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., audience minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland, 510-473-8815, Facebook.com/ContinentalComedy.

Spontaneous Banana Improv A comedy performance by the Oakland improv comedy troupe. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m., free. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-268-0177 SpiceMonkeyCafe.com.

Storming Comedy Open mic/comedy night hosted by [illegible]. Sign-ups at [illegible]. Saturdays, 8:30-9 p.m., free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174, StorkClubOakland.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

mes Choreography by Sonya Delwaide, Yukie Fujimoto, [illegible], Peiling Kao, Latisha Smith, [illegible] dance film [illegible] edited by [illegible] and choreography by [illegible]. Special performance [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 22, 1 & 8 p.m. $15 general admission, $12 for non-Mills students, seniors. Lisser Hall Theater, Mills College, Oakland, Mills.edu.

Works in the Round Bay Area based show [illegible] works and works-in-progress, ranging from modern dance and [illegible] to experimental [illegible] puppetry and music. [illegible] performances by Angela [illegible] Dancers, [illegible] Dance [illegible] and San Francisco State University Dance Theatre. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. $10. Eighth Street Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-827-8155.

LIVE VARIETY

[illegible] Through Thanksgiving [illegible] explores the complex history of Thanksgiving. Features live music, dance, film, spoken word poetry, hip hop theater, and visual art installations from [illegible] Native artists. Sun., Nov. 24, 7 p.m., $10-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

110 in the Shade Based on Nash's play *The Rainmaker*, the play tells the story of Lizzie Curry, a love-starved woman living on a [illegible] Texas ranch during the [illegible]. Through Dec. 8; 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays through Dec. 8. $28. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, 510-881-6777, DMTonline.org.

And where there was Grace there was Light [illegible] contemporary farce [illegible] in the age of global connections. Thu., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 22, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 2 p.m. $5-$10. Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga, 925-631-4000, StMarys-ca.edu.

A Bright New Boise A comedy about a man who enters his [illegible] to help him bond with his estranged son before the impending Rapture. Through Dec. 8. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Can You Dig It? One-man show with Don Reed. Through Dec. 15. $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

[illegible] the Central Figure [illegible] comedy by Lauren Amsterdam about the [illegible]. Sundays, 2 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 2. $12-$25. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

The Crucible The San Leandro [illegible] Arts Department explores the drama [illegible] American play by playwright Arthur Miller about the Salem witch trials that took place in the [illegible] Bay during 1692 and 1693. Thu., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 22, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m. $10 for adults, $7 for seniors and students. San Leandro Performing Arts Center, 2200 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, 510-618-[illegible], www.sanleandropac.com/

The Dining Room Play about the human comedy—and drama—that happens in the dining room in six actors playing 57 parts. The actors change roles, personalities and ages as they portray a wide variety of characters. Thu., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 22, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 7 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 30, 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 1, 7 p.m. $25. Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave., Oakland, PiedmontCenterForTheArts.org.

Don't Dress for Dinner Comedic bedroom farce presented by Center REPertory Company. Written by Marc Camoletti. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 23. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

Fragil Imago Theatre's signature work [illegible] puppetry and [illegible] a giant paper bag, huge [illegible] collaboration, and [illegible] spectrum touching the audience. Sat., Nov. 23, 2 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 3 p.m. $22. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988, CalPerformances.org.

Jesus Christ Superstar Performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera set in the wake of global warming and nuclear fallout. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Fridays, 8:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 23. $15-$20. Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, Ohlone.edu.

Kid-Simple: A Radio Play in the Flesh [illegible] invents a machine that hears sounds that cannot be heard, but evil forces are [illegible] to steal it. [illegible] in the process. By Jordan Harrison and directed by [illegible] Marshall. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. $15 general admission, $10 for students, seniors, and staff. [illegible], UC Berkeley, Berkeley, theatre.berkeley.edu.

A Little Princess A play based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel. By Andrew Lippa and Brian Crawley, directed by Elizabeth McKoy. Through Dec. 8. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

The Pianist of Willesden Lane Set in Vienna in 1938 and in London during the Blitz, the play tells the true story of Lisa Jura, a young Jewish musician whose dream was interrupted by the Nazi regime. Through Jan. 5, 2014. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Red Virgin A new play about the [illegible] during the Paris Commune in 1871. [illegible] by Gary Graves, directed by John [illegible]. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through Nov. 24. $15-$35. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

The Song of the Nightingale A musical that tells the magical story of a little bird who transforms the entire kingdom of China with just her song. Based upon a beloved fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 24. $24 for adults, $21 for students and seniors. Altarena Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda, 510-523-1553, Altarena.org.

Tell It On Tuesday Storytelling Solo performances and live music, with a rotating cast of performers. Last Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. $8-$15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Traveling While Black African solo production of the Adventures Of A Black [illegible] Girl [illegible] migration on the [illegible]. Fri., Nov. 22, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m. $15 general admission, $8 for seniors and youth. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629, EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

Tristan & Yseult The Bay Area premiere of the play based on an [illegible] from Cornwall [illegible], and [illegible] passions. Adapted and directed by Emma Rice, [illegible] by Carl Grose and Anna Maria Murphy. Nov. 22-Jan. 5. [illegible] Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Troilus and Cressida A tragic love story set during the pivotal seventh year in the Trojan War. Directed by Melissa Hillman. Sundays, 7 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 15. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-464-4468.

[illegible] Girl The story of a teenage girl who gains superpowers, along with the responsibility that accompanies them. As the [illegible] place, she faces incompetent superheroes, fun-loving [illegible] and apathetic [illegible] who all have differing visions of an ideal community. Directed by Cal student Bernice Scott, [illegible] by Adam Neimann. Fri., Nov. 22, 8-10 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 23, 8-10 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 24, 5-7 p.m., $6-$10. [illegible] Hall, [illegible] Cesar Chavez Student Center (UC Berkeley), Berkeley, 510-643-1947.

A Year with Frog and Toad A family musical [illegible] happy-go-lucky Frog and [illegible] Toad and their great friendship [illegible]. Through Dec. 7. $12. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

PICKS

I Hate the Holidays Cabaret

The holidays are such a circus. Escape the three-ring madness this weekend at Kinetic Arts Center's (785 7th St., Oakland) *I Hate the Holidays Cabaret*, its second annual juried festival of circus arts and a send-up of "everything excessive, tacky and overdone" about the season (which, let's face it, is pretty much everything). A coterie of disgruntled elves will host the high-flying shenanigans, with the Bay Area's finest aerialists and acrobats mocking holiday tropes and travails while competing for audience votes. This year's acts include an [illegible] tied off in a shock collar and a pole artist under the influence of poisoned sugarplums — we all know the feeling. Friday and Saturday winners will perform in the Sunday night finale for the ultimate prize of $350 — a year's worth of fruitcake. The under-21 crowd can watch the show up close from mats on the floor, and there's plenty of street parking for all the clown cars. — *Claudia Bauer*

Friday through Sunday, Nov. 22-24. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m. $25-$35. 510-444-4800 or KineticArtsCenter.com

Jesus Christ Superstar

Regardless of your religious inclinations, it certainly feels like the world could use a savior (or fifty) right about now. *Jesus Christ Superstar*, a rock opera currently in production at Ohlone College (43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont), tells a fitting tale in our current climate of destruction, political stagnation, and the most obscene wage gap the world has ever known. Director Michael Navarra has taken the basic premise of the biblical story, which follows Jesus during the last week of his life, and resurrects it in a grim and apocalyptic setting. For a community college production, *Jesus Christ Superstar* was damn impressive — glitzy but lucid, not falling into the camp arena, as other productions tend to — and so was the cast and crew's ability to pull off a fully realized musical before midterms. The final scene where (spoiler alert!) Jesus' crucified body is carried out by his disciples was hauntingly evocative, and the ghostly lighting top-shelf. Some of the music may be clunky and the lyrics laughably dated, but *Jesus Christ Superstar* still knows how to rock. While the musical might fall short of the divine, its scrumptious staging and vocal aplomb may, like its martyred protagonist, make you rise up at the end. — *Anna Pulley*

Through November 23. $20, $15 for students and seniors. 510-659-6031 or SmithCenter.com

Rope ensemble at Kinetic Arts.
Laura Van Haven

Squidling Brothers Circus Sideshow

Squidling Brothers Circus Sideshow, led by Philadelphia-based brothers Jelly Boy the Clown and Mattress Squidling, is a darkly comedic, physically grueling twist on sideshows of the early 20th century — a combination of the freakish unpleasantness of *Geek Love* and *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* set to the smoky tunes of a steampunk cabaret singing "Pink Elephants on Parade." "We're all about manipulating dark and dangerous objects without being harmed," Jelly Boy stated on the group's website. How to do that while eating glass, cramming your body into a suitcase, climbing a ladder made out of machetes, writhing on a bed of nails, or shoving hypodermic needles through one's arms, neck, and torso is unclear. But ultimately none of it is an illusion. "We're not necessarily about mutilation or pain, but overcoming and escaping those things," Jelly Boy stated. Audience members are encouraged to heckle, yell, laugh, and groan, as well as participate in fun — or horrifying, depending on your perspective — games like "What's In My Ass?," which involves a paddle, a blindfold, and several brave volunteers. See what sort of twisted ideas those salty, sultry, swaggering circus freaks have up their sleeves (or inseams) this week when the Squidling Brothers Circus Sideshow stops by Café Van Kleef (1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). — *Patrick Newson*

Thursday, Nov. 21, 9 p.m., free. CafeVanKleef.com

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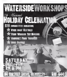
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THEATER REVIEW

WILL AND GRACE

Aurora's *A Bright New Boise* doesn't lead us to the promised land

By Anna Pulley

Here's a startling statistic: According to the Pew Research Center, 41 percent of Americans believe that Jesus Christ will return to Earth by 2050 to kick off the end times eternal damnation party, aka The Rapture. That's more than 128 million people who are "Rapture ready." Granted, these numbers are probably smaller here in the Bay Area — Rapture websites don't look too fondly on our ilk; one even claims we spend our time luring angels to orgies in its FAQ on homosexuality: "The men of Sodom even tried to seduce the angels that were sent! (Sounds like San Francisco.)" While we may not encounter too many Rapture rhapsodizers on our trips to Berkeley Bowl, fundamentalism is on many Americans' minds, and is the topic of *A Bright New Boise*, which is now in production at Aurora Theatre Company.

David Allen

Will's (Robert Parsons) fall from grace is the biggest letdown.

Written by native Idahoan Samuel D. Hunter (*The Whale*, *The Few*) and directed by Aurora's Artistic Director Tom Ross (*This Is How It Goes*, *A Delicate Balance*), *Boise* takes place almost entirely in the breakroom of a conservative Christian-owned Hobby Lobby arts and crafts store. Will (Robert Parsons), a soft-spoken man in his early forties, has fled his hometown up north due to a tragic scandal involving his evangelical church (and possible cult). He comes to Hobby Lobby to reconnect with his teenage son Alex (Daniel Petzold), whom he gave up for adoption when he was a baby before the Day of Reckoning. Meanwhile, his eclectic co-workers Pauline (Gwen Loeb), Anna (Megan Trout), and Alex's brother Leroy (Patrick Russell), have a thing or two to teach Will about life here on Earth.

It's an interesting twist, to make the protagonist an affable former Christian cult member, and indeed the vast majority of the play is spent convincing us that people are far more complex than they seem, and to question our meta-judgment of those whose beliefs differ from our own, even radically so. Hunter, who went to a fundamentalist Christian high school and worked at a Walmart for a time, appears to know much about fundamentalists, and strives to challenge our assumptions of them, to "explore what it's like to live with these beliefs in a constantly modernizing world," as is noted in the playbill. And yet, after we've spent all this time with Will and his earnest, sweet, and shy attempts to bond with his son and co-workers, Hunter reaffirms that he is very much the unredeemable wackadoo we would expect him to be at first glance. Once Will's "true" nature comes to light, the entire play feels like a set-up, an elaborate "gotcha!" moment that reinforces the social notions and stereotypes *Boise* is fighting against.

Show Details

A Bright New Boise runs through Dec. 8 at Aurora Theatre (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $32-$50. AuroraTheatre.org

Being duped in this manner doesn't wholly detract from the perceptive, quippy dialogue and waggish cast, whose neuroses are digressive and delightful, especially the acerbic store manager Pauline, the painfully awkward Michael Cera-esque Anna, and the willful, protective Leroy, who tries to spin his Hobby Lobby job as a piece of subversive performance art, and whose interrogations of Will get some of the biggest laughs. Alex's adolescent bereftness is both endearing and shocking. Petzold portrays his malaise, frequent panic attacks, and threats of suicide with stinging bleakness and maturity.

But as we're being entertained by the funny, if gawky, interactions of disgruntled Big Box workers, it's not enough to wrest us from the unanswered questions the play poses and then forgets about. Will's final fall from grace feels like the biggest letdown, an easy out when viewed through the lens of the play's central premise — that belief in an apocalyptic Rapture is motivated by how meaningless life is. In the play's two-hour run, Will has multiple chances to live and be the father he so desperately wants to be, not just with Alex, but with another son figure from his former church. Instead of stepping up to the plate when the chance beckons him, he instead retreats into Rapture-esque fantasy, chanting "now!" perpetually skyward and letting those he cares about slip away, in one case, forever. Once our protagonist is deemed looney tunes, what's left for audience members to believe in?

"Without God, I'm just a terrible father who works in a Hobby Lobby and lives in his car. There's got to be more," says Will. *Boise* lacks this essential more-ness. Yet, despite the stellar cast and remarkably realistic staging of corporate breakroom soullessness, that *something more* will have to wait for another day, or another play, at least. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

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4. **Register** your card at Latham Square's info booth, at one of the 10 bars, or online before Dec 1

* Participating Locations are "Oakland Grown Card Hotspots" and they are indicated with an acorn icon ● on the map on pages 4 + 5

Swipe Everywhere You Can!

- Prize winners will be randomly selected EVERY HOUR
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$25 and $50 Gift Certificates to boutiques restaurants and bars
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Redeem your accumulated OakShares (reward points) for discounts and freebies at dozens of Oakland independent stores, restaurants, bars and cafes Get announcements about exclusive cardholder offers and activities Feel great about keeping your dollars local! Visit OaklandGrown org for more information

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Hey cyclists! Grab your bikes and head out for a great 5+ mile ride with your friends to explore fabulous shops from the Golden Gate district to Downtown's Latham Square

Get the Map

Get your map from the Plaid Friday section of OaklandGrown.org Routes maps and store listings provided by Oakland Grown and the East Bay Bicycle Coalition.

Tips for Shopping on Bike

Brought to you by East Bay Bicycle Coalition

- Use different strategies for different sized loads. A quick run to the store (one grocery bag) can usually be accommodated by a backpack or messenger bag, but a medium sized load (two grocery bags) is better off carried by panniers or a large milk crate attached to a rack on your bike For big loads (three+ grocery bags) a trailer or specially designed cargo bike is the way to go
- If you need to carry both kids and cargo there are some great cargo bike options from Xtracycle or Yuba Bikes, both of which are based in the Bay Area. Another option is a Bakfiets a Dutch-style freight bike with a big wooden box on the front which can carry just about anything
- Your bike will be more stable when it is loaded with the weight low to the ground and centered Side panniers attached to a bike rack are great. Hanging a bag from the handlebars is not, as it will affect the steering and might get in the way of the brakes
- Almost anything can be secured to a bike rack or trailer with just a couple strategic bungee cords. Or just keep a couple old bike tires with your bike at all times, which can be used as flexible tie downs whenever you need them Give your bike a jiggle before taking off to check that everything is attached securely.

Santa's Village

from 12pm – 7pm
Latham Square
(where Broadway meets Telegraph)

The Dedications

Kev Choice Ensemble

Live art by Pro Arts and artisan vendors
Live music by The Dedications, The Riot Professor,
Kev Choice Ensemble, Dynamic, Say Bobby
DJ Tanya making Santa dance
Professional gift wrapping service provided by ACE
Live screen printing by Team Print Shop
Hot chocolate to warm your bellies
Donate a new, unwrapped toy for the
Mayor's Toy Drive
Help a family in need at the holiday Giving Tree

Kids' activities include

Free photos with Santa
Balloon artist Jeff Donen on stilts
Face painting by Alana Dill "You Become Art!"

Great Wall of Oakland

(at West Grand Avenue between Broadway and Valley Street)
Nighttime projections of Oakland Holiday Wishes

Surrounding Santa's Village

Artisans line Latham Square
Visit Betti Ono's Vendor Village
Pro Arts Gallery offering DIY crafts

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OAKLAND
NEED A GIFT OR HOTEL FOR A VISITING RELATIVE? WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE NUTCRACKER IS PLAYING?
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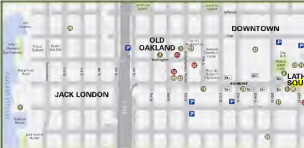

JEFFERSON SQUARE
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
Jefferson
USS Potomac
Ferry to Alameda/ San Francisco
Port of Oakland
Yoshi's Jazz Club
Waterfront Hotel
Embarcadero
2nd St.
3rd St.
4th St.
5th St.
6th St.
OLD OAKLAND
Washington
Swan's Marketplace
Oakland Convention Center
Marriott Oakland City Center
DOWNTOWN
Clay
City Hall
FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA
LATH
SQU
BROADWAY
JACK LONDON
I-880
7th St.
8th St.
9th St.
11th St.
12th St.
14th St.
OAKLAND ESTUARY
Oakland Marina
Jack London Market

RETAIL SHOPS

① **25th Street Collective**
477 25th St.
4p to 8p
Bring in some plaid and we'll move onto fun stuff. Plus meet the Makers!

② **A Diva's Closet**
383 17th St.
10:30a to 7p
Sexy and playful clothing, accessories & makeup! Up to 30% off select merchandise.

③ **Best Music**
1730 Broadway
9a to 5:30p
Books, guitar strings, picks, reeds, for the musician in your life. Many items 30% off.

④ **Bath One**
1427 Broadway
11a to 8p
Limited edition prints, art, design & apparel by local artists in the gallery & on the street!

⑤ **Bibliomania**
1816 Telegraph Ave.
11a to 5p
Books of all kinds! New arrivals plus 30% off books in the Christmas section.

⑥ **Bittersweet**
1438 Broadway
7a to 10p
$3.00 cookie and coffee combo!

⑦ **Bookmark Bookstore**
721 Washington St.
10:30a to 5:30p
Books, media and gift certificates. 20% off!

⑧ **CA Canoe and Kayak**
409 Water St.
10a to 6p
Canoes, kayaks & accessories. 20-50% off items. Up to 30% off gift certificates.

⑨ **Crown Nine Jewelers & Makers**
515 9th St.
11a to 6p
Sample sale w/ Sarah Swell Hand hewn jewelry & Indigo ceramic jewelry dish.

⑩ **Entrez! Open House**
100 Grand Ave.
9a to 9p
Modern & delightful housewares & gifts. 30% off Karhu & Teema & more specials!

⑪ **Farley's East**
33 Grand Ave.
8a to 9p
Coffee beans, mugs, t-shirts, hats, and gift cards.

⑫ **Feelmore Adult Gallery**
1703 Telegraph Ave.
Noon to 1:30a
Elegantly curated adult toys, books, film, art & more. 10% off if you wear plaid!

⑬ **field day and friends**
329 19th St.
Noon to 6p
Local & green clothing, jewelry, gifts & gift certificates
20% off all field day brand.

⑭ **Funky Soul Stop**
1611 Jefferson St.
2p to 6p
Hard to find records, tapes, CDs. Plus books, photos, record players & posters.

⑮ **Harper Green**
43 Grand Ave.
10a to 7p
Women's clothing, scarves, jewelry, handbags and gift certificates. 15% off!

⑯ **Jon's Music**
467 19th St.
9a to 5p
Musical instruments & accessories. Congas and djembe drums make great gifts.

⑰ **Joyce Gordon Gallery**
406 14th St.
Noon to 6p
Affordable art items, some marked down. Plus holiday spirits and desserts!

⑱ **Kim's Watches & Jewelry**
930 Broadway Ste #167
11a to 5p
Fine watches & luxury jewelry. Gucci, Movado, Rado & more.
25-30% off all items.

⑲ **Kuhl Frames**
1645 Telegraph Ave.
11a to 4p
Hundreds of famous Li'l Tuffy concert posters, plus postcards and greeting cards.

⑳ **Loakal**
520 Second St.
10a to 6p
Clothes, housewares & more by 90+ local designers. Photo booth, cookies, tea, & gifts.

㉑ **Makin Endz Meet**
301 17th St.
11a to 6p
Your best stop for vintage! Cowboy & glam boots, jewelry, hats, & more
10% off w/ad.

㉒ **Marion and Rose's Workshop**
461 9th St.
Noon to 6p
Fun & lovely gifts, housewares, artisan foods. Enjoy music, food, gifts. 10% for wearing plaid.

㉓ **Nailphoria**
1212 Broadway Ste 611
9a to 7p
Skincare, make up lotions, spa packages, gift certificates.
Free gift w/ gift cert. over $100

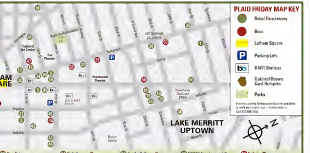
㉔ **Oakland Surf Club**
337 14th St.
10a to 6p
Men's & women's clothing, hats, tees, skateboards. 15% off. Free gift w/ purchase of $100+

㉕ **Oaklandish**
1444 Broadway
10a to 7p
T-shirts, hoodies, infant wear, & local goods. Plaid Classic T-shirt with purchase of $75+!

㉖ **Owl N Wood**
45 Grand Ave.
10a to 9p
Leggings, tops, candles, clogs, sneakers, scarves, bags, wallets. OJ & vendors. 10-25% off

㉗ **Periscope Cellars**
510 9th St.
Noon to 10p
Oakland winery offering bottles of Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese.

㉘ **Piedmont Piano Company**
1728 San Pablo Ave.
10a to 6p
Pianos, gift certificates for rentals, lessons or room rental.
2 free concert tix w/ purchase.



PLAID FRIDAY MAP KEY

- Retail Businesses
- Bars
- Latham Square
- Parking Lots
- BART Stations
- Oakland Grown Card Hotspots
- Parks

Free Hospitality Ambassador Escorts available to walk you to your car or transit station. Call 510-898-8582.

(29) Pro Arts
150 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
Noon to 5p
Coffee, cookies & cider in the gallery. DIY Eco-art gift stations and live drawing

(30) Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave.
10a to 7p
Local clothing, jewelry housewares, toys, books. DIY cards, gift wrapping & snacks!

(31) Sankofa
120 Frank H Ogawa Plaza
10a to 5p
Scarves, purses, jewelry, soaps, African masks & music
Gift w/ purchase of $50+

(32) Shoe Groupie
1621 Broadway
11a to 9p
Sexy shoes, coats, bowties, accessories, and prints. 30% off shoes!

(33) Show & Tell
1300 Clay St. #150
10a to 7p
Oakland t-shirts, Tom's scarves, locally-designed jewelry
Buy 1 get 2nd item 50% off

(34) SoleSpace
1714 Telegraph Ave.
9a to 6p
Fab shoes, rare records, cards, cupcakes & more. Record swap, vendors. 25% off shoes!

(35) Terminus
2435 Telegraph Ave.
2p to 8p
Affordable & unique artwork & prints from emerging artists. Enjoy music on Plaid Friday.

(36) The Hat Guys
1754 Broadway
11a to 5:45p
Wide selection of hats. Hat brushes for hat owners! Mention Plaid Friday & get 10% off.

(37) The Hat Library
1546 Broadway
11a to 6p
Hats scarves, jewelry & more. 10-50% off select items, 25% off total if wearing plaid.

(38) The Pie Shop @ Kitchener
372 24th St.
To-go frozen pies & pastries. Free Pie Shop Mix Tape with purchase of 3 pies, or $3 per tape

(39) Turtle & Hare
190 Grand Ave
11a to 7p
Gorgeous & exclusive housewares. Tables made of local woods. 10-35% off select items.

(40) Two Jacks Denim
2365 Broadway
10a to 9p
Urban menswear, artisanal brand denim shirts, jackets, belts, wallets & jewelry.

(41) Umami Mart
815 Broadway
11a to 7p
High quality Japanese kitchen items, bar sets, tea sets. Prints, posters, Christmas cards.

(42) Underground Treasures
1707 Webster St.
10a to 6p
Women's clothing, accessories & hats. $100 Gift certificates = $150 in merchandise!

(43) Uptown Juice Company
1714 Telegraph Ave
9a to 6p
Juices, cleanses, sampler packs and gift certificates at Solespace pop-up.

(44) VAMP "vintage art & music for the people"
331 19th St.
Noon to 8p
Awesome vintage records, fashion & housewares. Local art & wares. Bikes too as usual

(45) Wireless Options
377 19th St.
10a to 8p
Everything for every phone. Gift certificates for screen repair a gift they will use!

BARS (5p-10p)

(46) Bar Three Fifty-Five
355 19th St.
Happy hour & drink specials
Amber & Washmueller, Beads & Things

(47) Bench & Bar
510 17th St.
Free nacho bar 4:30p–9:30p
Sage Hair Skincare, Jewelry Bespoke, Luanna Lathers Soaps

(48) District
921 Washington St.
Happy hour until 6p.
Bay Area Custom Prints, Little Shop Artisan Box, Design De Troy

(49) Hutch
2022 Telegraph Ave
$5 bourbon eggnog
Latoh Baker Artworks, Sam Renaissance

(50) Luka's
2221 Broadway
$5 margaritas
Girl & Rhino, Young Turks Vintage

(51) Layover
1517 Franklin St.
Indie artisan show curated by Layover

(52) Pacific Coast Brewery
906 Washington St.
Live music, DJ & drink specials
Design Dad, Lake Merritt Dental, Awkward Affections, Spoonie

(53) Telegraph
2318 Telegraph Ave.
$5 mulled wine
Fatal Jewelry, Urban Antique

(54) The Trappist
460 8th St.
Christmas beers on tap
Cal CraftyClay, Nuu Jewelry

(55) Uptown Nightclub
1928 Telegraph Ave
Book space n
Viv & Ingrid, Refined Deliverance

LATHAM SQUARE
(Noon-7p)

iOAKa!, Team Print Shop, Shoes are by Felicee, Silver Heart Apparel, Uncharted Jerk, Oakland Chocolate Company, Paco Colors, Cat Man of West Oakland

PLAID FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 29

Discover these artisans and more in Oakland's Downtown bars!

See page 5 for locations.

designerDad

Screenprints of quirky cartography and inspired typography: designerDad maps are painstakingly researched, intricately designed and screen printed on beautiful paper. Come see the 146 neighborhood map poster of Oakland, plus Berlin, Tokyo, Istanbul, New York, Italia, Budapest, Praha and plenty more. Go ahead, put one on your wall.

designerDad.com
Posters@designerDad.com

Little Shop Artisan Box

Taste the best of the Bay Area's small batch artisans. Subscribe to a monthly Gourmet Foodie Box and experience sweet and savory jams, seasonal pickles, cured meats, and chocolate confections. Send a Little Shop Holiday Box to your favorite foodie or share your Oakland pride with our Oaktown Pride Box.

LittleShopArtisanBox.com
LittleShopArtisanBox@gmail.com
510-463 4 BOX (4269)
PO Box 6064 Alameda, CA 94501

FATAL Jewelry

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FATALJewelry.com
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585 Sutter St., San Francisco CA 94108

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The Girl & Rhino is the relationship between a sad little girl and her imaginary friend, Rhino. Together, with wit and half bitten tongues in cheeks, they rethink the world in ways that make them smile. With graphic images they poke holes in the shadows to let light seep through.

TheGirlandRhino.com
TheGirlandRhino@gmail.com

Awkward Affections

At Awkward Affections you will find art prints and greetings for the absurd, nerdy and curious human. Shop for affordable home décor, or a down to earth (and of course, awkward) solution to communicating with your loved ones. Here, we believe in keeping fantasy, intrigue and humor in everyday life.

AwkwardAffections.com
Kez@AwkwardAffections.com
San Francisco, CA

I love you, Jerkface

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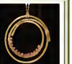
Stunning jewelry designed and hand crafted in Oakland by Siamese artist. Elegant adornments from gemstones and precious metals for one of kind gifts, special occasions, and every day wear.

nuujewelry.com
nuah@nuujewelry.com
4th Street Fine Art Gallery
2000 4th St., Berkeley CA 94710



Oaktown Jerk

Oakland's finest artisan beef jerky! Beef jerky lovers will love this as a holiday gift! We have 6 delicious flavors to choose from Sesame Teriyaki Mild/Spicy Pineapple Basil Hickory Smoke Mild/Spicy Star Anise & Habanero and Chili Lime Cilantro. Pair it with an OJ T shirt!

OaktownJerk.com
OaktownJerk@gmail.com
510-504-2251

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Beads and Things

Oakland based Beads and Things offers an eclectic blend of handmade accessories. Natural wood, beautiful fabrics, graphic prints, and even upcycled vintage pieces are fashionably blended to create a unique look. Whether you are looking for bold statement pieces or everyday accessory staples, Beads and Things is the place!

BeadsandThings510.com
StaceysBeadsandThings@gmail.com

Lake Merritt Dental

Offering general and cosmetic dentistry endodontics, prosthodontics and implants, periodontal surgeries, wisdom teeth extraction, Invisalign, and Zoom! Whitening.

LakeMerrittDental.com
Info@LakeMerrittDental.com
510-834-4321
1900 Webster St., Suite A, Oakland CA 94612

Viv&Ingrid

Viv&Ingrid is a boutique fashion accessories brand designed out of California. We specialize in handmade semi-precious and fine jewelry packaged in our signature fabric pouches. From products to service, we at Viv&Ingrid are convinced that a bit of luxury and a few happy little details can inspire greatness!

VivandIngrid.com
CustomerService@VivandIngrid.com
510-524-9682
2142 Oxford St., Berkeley, CA 94704

Ioakal

American-made, ecofriendly clothes designed and printed locally, this brand is a collaboration between Oakland's fiftyseven thirtythree and East Bay Express. Our shop also features a sizeable art gallery as well as other apparel and accessories, all from locally based folks. Shop here during the holidays for the Oakland-lovers on your list.

590 Second St., Oakland CA 94607
510-842-3474
EBXloakal.com
Ioakal@5733.com

Urban Antiq

Handmade jewelry influenced by the urban city landscape and the diverse natural gardens of the Bay Area CA. Each piece symbolizes an important part of the designer's life experiences and multifaceted character. There's a piece for every type of personality – from fun, pretty, sexy, quirky to daring.

UrbanAntiq.com
Info@UrbanAntiq.com
415-952-5911

URBAN ANTIQ

PLAID FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 29

Bay Area Custom Prints

BACP specializes in fine art reproduction prints of paintings and photographic works. Our limited edition prints are mastered and printed with care using the highest quality archival papers and inks. In addition we hand make custom necklaces featuring select works from our family of print artists.

BACPrints.com
info@BACPrints.com
510-507-1528

Refined Deliverance

Got a tobacco smoker in your life? Give them the gift of choice! Refined Deliverance is a purveyor of fine nicotine e-liquids and hardware, offering over 50 premium flavors all available to taste! Available in 0, 6, 12 and 18 mg/ml. Visit our new Lakeshore Ave. location where we bring 'vaping' to new levels.

RefinedDeliverance.com
Info@RefinedDeliverance.com
510-922-1305
3411 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, CA 94610

The Oakland Chocolate Co.

The Oakland Chocolate Company uses Jamaican origin cocoa beans exclusively to make our delicious bars, bonbons novelties, caramels and truffles. Our chocolates are soy-free and gluten-free. We make milk, dark, and very dark chocolate as well as a limited selection of sugarless chocolate bars.

TheOaklandChocolateCo.com
510-545-2462
NNedd@TheOaklandChocolateCo.com
1552 Beach St., Unit L, Oakland, CA 94608

Skincare by Feleciai

Skincare by Feleciai's products are handmade natural and will make your skin feel soft and smooth. Our line includes soaps, sugar scrubs, lip balms, body butters and facial creams. Made with organic shea butter, golden jojoba oil, olive oil and coconut oil only with essential oils. Skincare by Feleciai, where Bathing is an Art.

SkincarebyFeleciai.com
Info@SkincarebyFeleciai.com
301 Jefferson St., Unit F, Oakland, CA 94607

What kinds of gifts can you find at retail stores in Uptown & Downtown Oakland on Plaid Friday?

Makeup Prints Books Coffees Teas Adult Toys Jewelry CDs Leather Jackets Housewares Artisan Foods Spa Packages Lighting Hats T-Shirts Skateboards Infant Wear Hoodies Wine Instruments Skincare Lotions Greeting Cards Succulents Furniture Pies Zines Candles Leggings Wallets Sneakers Boots Watches Scarves Handbags Lingerie Records Gift Certificates Sunglasses Vintage Cleanses Kitchenware Pastries Soaps Bracelets Gloves Socks Cupcakes Gift Baskets Art African Masks Kayaks Canoes Ceramics Record Players Surfboards Wool Blankets Canvas Bags Cowboy Boots Magazines Flasks Chocolates Posters Clothes Shoes Cookies

LECTURES & LIT

The Magical Thinking of Thirteen-Year-Olds

Joyce Maynard's new novel, loosely based on the case of the "Trailside Killer," is ultimately about youthful optimism

Even as an eighteen-year-old, Joyce Maynard reflected on the past. In 1972, the Yale freshman wrote a cover story for *The New York Times Magazine* that examined her generation's prospects by reflecting upon her own experiences and upbringing. She concluded that every generation grapples with issues of narcissism and unfulfilled expectations, yet she also admitted that she viewed death with the naive sense of confidence only a young person can afford.

Such youthful optimism is ultimately the central theme of Maynard's new novel, *After Her*. It's loosely based on the real life case of David Carpenter (aka the "Trailside Killer") and the ruthless murders he committed in Marin County in the late 1970s, but inspiration for the book came to Maynard from two sisters who had attended one of her writing workshops a couple years ago. She learned that the women, Laura Xerogeanes and Janet Cabley, were the daughters of Robert Gaddini, the late homicide detective who led the investigation of Carpenter.

Joyce Maynard.

In the press notes for *After Her*, Maynard writes that what lured her to the sisters' story was not their unique connection to the Trailside Killer, but "the story of the family — theirs — that had been so terribly affected by [the killer] and his actions, and the way in which those had shaped their lives." *After Her* follows two young sisters, Rachel and Patty, who are living in the Bay Area in the 1970s when the "Sunset Strangler," a mysterious serial killer, is terrorizing the people of Marin County from the trails of Mount Tamalpais. The story is told through the eyes of the adult Rachel, who reflects upon her and her sister's ordeal. Although the girls' minds are engrossed in the typical preoccupations of adolescent girls, the menace of the Sunset Strangler looms over the lives of their family as their charismatic (yet flawed) father, Tony Torricelli, is assigned as the chief homicide detective on the case.

When Tony is unable to capture the killer — a fact that chips away at his spirit and health — young Rachel attempts to accomplish what he couldn't. "She subscribes to the magical thinking of thirteen-year-olds that she can catch a killer," said Maynard, who lives in Oakland and is the author of thirteen books.

"At its center, this is a book about being thirteen," Maynard said. "It is about that crucial moment in a young person's life when she is part child, part adult, and she is both and is neither. She believes that she is capable of everything."

A raw and honest writer, Maynard incorporates bits and pieces of herself in every work she produces. In *After Her*, she lends the fearless spirit of her younger self to shaping Rachel's boldness and seeming invulnerability. "Whether you write fiction or memoir, you can't escape from yourself," said Maynard.

Join Maynard at the Montclair Branch of the Oakland Public Library (1687 Mountain Blvd., Oakland) on Tuesday, November 26, as she discusses *After Her*, her writing workshops, and the art of pie-making (one of her obsessions). 6:30 p.m., free. OaklandLibrary.org

— Ivy Kim

LECTURES

The Apocalyptic Material with David Maisel Conversation between artist David Maisel and OMCA Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman. OMCA recently acquired two of Maisel's photographs: "Lake Project 3" and "Oblivion 16n." Fri., Nov. 22, 7-8 p.m. $15 general admission, $10 for seniors, $6 for youth. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Artist Talk with [illegible] Part of the [illegible] School series where participants can get acquainted with the life, work, and ideas of artists, designers, and creators of [illegible]. Sat., Nov. 30, 3-5 p.m. [illegible] Gallery and Shop, 1427 Broadway, Oakland, 510-473-[illegible], [illegible].com.

Sound the Scenes: Randy Thom on Sound Design Two-time Academy Award-winner Randy Thom speaks on the art of sound design and his own early experiences on films like *Apocalypse Now*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *The Right Stuff*, and *The Incredibles*. Followed by screening of David Lynch's *Wild at Heart*. Thu., Nov. 21, 7 p.m., $6.50-$9.50. BAM/PFA, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Lectures on Religious Tolerance [illegible], history professor at the University of Los Angeles, examines how religious tolerance comes about by examining Muslim meetings with non-Muslims from distant parts of the planet. Thu., Nov. 21, 6-7 p.m. [illegible] Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall, Berkeley.

Critical Time Poet and critic Claudia La [illegible] in conversation with [illegible] about the role of the critic. Thu., Nov. 21, 6-6:30 p.m. Moffitt Undergraduate Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-7800, Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] The author examines his new book, *The Right to Stay Home: How U.S. Policy Drives Mexican Migration*. Fri., Nov. 22, 7-8 p.m. Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-7417, Marxistlibr.org.

Dr. Paul [illegible] The art historian gives an illustrated lecture on his new book [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 21, 7-8:30 p.m., free. The Bone Room, 1569 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-5252, BoneRoomPresents.com.

Defending Diversity: Affirmative Action in Imperiled Times [illegible], Distinguished University Professor [illegible] of Psychology and [illegible] Studies, [illegible] evidence on the educational benefit of diversity that has played a role in legal challenges of affirmative action. Book signing of *Dialogue Across Difference: Practice, Theory, and Research on Intergroup Dialogue* to follow. Fri., Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, Berkeley.edu.

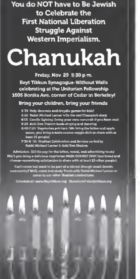
Radical Films: Bruce Conner's [illegible] Sixties Talk examining the films Bruce Conner produced during the period from 1958-1970 and unpacking the major influences on his distinctive apocalyptic vision of postwar America. Thu., Nov. 21, 12-1 p.m. Faculty Club, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-540-5670, BerkeleyFacultyClub.com.

Haitian Mosaic Artists Visit the Bay Area Young Haitian mosaic artists [illegible], Jean [illegible], and Fedan [illegible] in conversation with [illegible] the period [illegible] Bay Area artist and [illegible] Laurel True [illegible] the devastating earthquake of 2010. Fri., Nov. 22, 6 p.m. Institute of Mosaic Art, 3001 Chapman St., Oakland, 510-417-0699, InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

[illegible] Gerard Goggin, an assistant professor in the Department of [illegible] Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, examines the role played by technology in the development of the [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 21, 4-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, Berkeley.edu.

Jewish Thinking about [illegible] Ages This [illegible] will explore Jewish thinking about Islam during the [illegible] period, encompassing not only Jewish [illegible] the very grounds on which the two religions were seen as [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 21, 5-6:30 p.m. Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-643-6000, Berkeley.edu.

Panel Discussion on [illegible] Israel, [illegible] A multidisciplinary panel of scholars from UC Berkeley and Stanford, including faculty from the [illegible]



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Chanukah

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Bring your children, bring your friends

5:30 Help decorate and dreydle games for kids!
6:00 Rabbi Michael Lerner tells the real Chanukah story
6:15 Candle lighting (bring your own menorah if you have one)
6:20 Achi Ben Shalom leads singing and dancing
6:40-7:20 Vegetarian pot-luck (We bring the latkes and apple sauce, you bring a main course veggie dish to share with at least 15 people)
7:30-9:00 Shabbat Celebration and Service co-led by Rabbi Michael Lerner & Achi Ben Shalom

Admission: $10 (to pay for the latkes, rental, and advertising costs) PLUS you bring a delicious vegetarian MAIN COURSE DISH (not bread and cheese—something substantive to share with at least 15 other people).

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PICKS

Ben Fong-Torres

If any band is more primed for a definitive biography, it might be Little Feat, a seminal, long-running rock-blues-R&B band that influenced a wide swath of musicians from the Seventies through today — but which was also beset by the kind of internal strife and constant turnover that we read band bios for. And if anyone's better-suited to write it, it just might be Ben Fong-Torres, who made his name as a *Rolling Stone* reporter during the Seventies. Hear Fong-Torres read from *Willin': The Story of Little Feat* at Books Inc. Berkeley (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley). *— Ellen Cushing*

Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net

BustingOut Storytelling

What better way to emotionally prepare for the upcoming holiday than with a collection of stories told by people whose relatives are even more hilariously screwed-up than yours? Kay DeMartini's BustingOut storytelling series tackles that particular wellspring of humor and pathos at this month's iteration, held at The Den at the Fox Theater (1932 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) and featuring Jeff Greenwald, Chris Beck, Jim Webb, Caitlin Myer — and you, if you bring a three-minute story to share. Hey, it's cheaper than therapy. — *E.C.*

Ben Fong-Torres

Thursday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., two for $20 in advance, or $20 each at the door. BustingOutStorytelling.com

South Asia Studies and the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, will join Francesco Spagnolo, Curator of The Magnes Collection, discussing [illegible] by [illegible]. Thu. Nov. 21, 5-7 p.m. Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-643-2526, Magnes.org.

Pre-Islamic Legacy in the Muslim Republic of Iran. Hosted by Dr. [illegible] who finished his PhD in Near East and African History from Tel Aviv University (2012) and is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the University of Texas, Austin. Thu. Nov. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. [illegible] Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Renewable Energy and Birds Talk by [illegible], renewable energy director and [illegible], about efforts to plan conservation of species and habitats concurrent with planning for renewable energy capacity. Thu. Nov. 21, 7-9 p.m. $5. Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley 510-526-3805.

Nick Tejeda-Flores Presentation by the award-winning documentary filmmaker [illegible] in Berkeley. Thu. Nov. 26, 7-9 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Thu., Nov. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m. $15-$40. [illegible] Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-1883, LafayetteLibrary.org.

Tang Yudong and the Non-Media Turn in Contemporary Chinese Art Eugene Wang, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Professor of Asian Art at Harvard University, looks at Tang Yudong's films in the context of [illegible] in Chinese art over the past twenty years. Sun. Nov. 24, 3 p.m. BAM/PFA, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] The author of [illegible] will speak about his experience as an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) commander in the Occupied Territories. Sat. Nov. 23, 7-9 p.m. Suggested donation $10-$20. Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-2424, KehillaSynagogue.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Art Boot Camp: Society Writer [illegible] leads a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and create a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. [illegible] The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland 510-364-3148, 25thStreetCollective.com.

Ben Fong-Torres Reads from his book, *Willin': The Story of Little Feat*. Fri. Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

[illegible] Collective Hosted by [illegible] with live music and workshopping. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Frank Bette Center, 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

[illegible] Reading by the two poets, hosted by [illegible]. Sat. Nov. 23, 2-4 p.m. [illegible] 2728 [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

BustingOut Storytelling [illegible] kicking off the holiday season with a night of family stories from an all-star cast of storytellers. Thu. Nov. 21, 7:30-9:30 p.m. 2 for $20 in advance, $20 at the door. The Den, 1932 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-302-2245, TheFoxOakland.com.

[illegible] The author discusses his new book, *[illegible]*, aided by Dacher Keltner, the founding director of the Greater Good Science Center and a Professor of psychology at UC Berkeley. Thu. Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. $5-$15. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley 510-642-8490.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Flash Fiction Friday Bay Area contributors to the world's only short-short fiction anthology dedicated to humor will read stories and answer audience questions. Mon. Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland, 510-649-1320, PegasusBookstore.com.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 510-798-1230, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10720 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-798-1230, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Golden Gate Book Discussion Group [illegible] monthly book ideas. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-597-5023, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] The author discusses her new novel, *[illegible]*, and [illegible] of good storytelling. Tue. Nov. 26, 6:30 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Montclair Branch, 1687 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-7810, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] *[illegible] in the City of Light*. Fri. Nov. 22, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com.

Poetry Express Readings A weekly poetry series and open mic. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Priya Indian Cuisine, 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-644-3077.

Read and Stock Book Club A monthly book group for adults to talk about any book they choose. Meetings held in the fourth floor Story Hour room. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 3-4 p.m. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] Strong Fiction Books from the [illegible] collection of short fiction: *[illegible]*. Local writers Anna White and Tomas Moniz also read from their works. Thu. Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley & Oakland, 510-649-1320, PegasusBookstore.com.

[illegible] A reading by the poet and scholar who is being [illegible] by the Holloway Series in Poetry [illegible]. Thu. Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m. Wheeler Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Uniquely Yours: A Once Per Month Creative Writing Workshop Author [illegible] hosts a workshop for writers of all levels, experiences, and genres, ages 18 and up. Drop-ins welcome, long-term participation encouraged. Fourth Sunday of every month, 1-4:30 p.m., $5-$15, [illegible]. Rock Paper Scissors Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-238-9171, RPSCollective.org.

Veronica Mary Rolf Discusses her book, *Julian's Gospel: Illuminating the Life and Revelations of Julian of Norwich*. Thu., Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-7777, BooksInc.net/Berkeley.

Writer Readings Third Thursday of every month. 6 p.m. Arbor Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Youth Speaks Workshop Youth Speaks' [illegible] leads free writing and performance workshop series. Tuesdays, 4-6:30 p.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

[illegible] Bay Area Debtors' Assembly Forum for people to organize to protest against the debt system. Sat. Nov. 23, 2-4:30 p.m. Donations welcome. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-841-4824, BFUU.org.

Affordable Health Care Act: Your Questions Answered A certified enrollment counselor will be available to answer questions and assist with the application process for the Affordable Care Act. Wed. Nov. 27, 5-6 p.m.; Wed. Dec. 4, 5-6 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

International Survivors of Suicide Day Event presented by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to offer support to those [illegible]. Sat. Nov. 23, [illegible] a.m.-noon. Free. Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, Ohlone.edu.

The Moroccan-style roasted chicken features crisp skin and moist and well-seasoned flesh. Chris Duffey

AFFORDABLE ROMANCE

Mockingbird serves rustic, globally inspired California cuisine that doesn't cost a fortune.

By Luke Tsai

One of the most striking things about Mockingbird, the new California-style bistro in Uptown Oakland, is how grown-up the place feels: smooth jazz on the speakers, tied curtains in the window and fresh flowers on every table. When, as dusk settled, our server lit up candles to illuminate the dining room, it sealed the deal. If ever a restaurant was tailor-made for "date night," this was it.

Chef-co-owners Melissa Axelrod (who'd cooked at Delfina and other San Francisco restaurants before starting her own catering company) and William Johnson (Zuni Café, Alembic) quietly opened Mockingbird in the former Hibiscus space in September. The food is straight-up Northern California cuisine in the Chez Panisse/Zuni Café tradition, which is to say that as at countless other Bay Area restaurants, most of the ingredients are local/seasonal/farmers market-driven and prepared with a minimum of fuss. But the menu, which changes frequently, is notable for its international touches — with detours to Asia and the Middle East in addition to the usual vaguely European fare — and its exceedingly reasonable prices.

Perhaps this is the real wonder of Mockingbird. As Uptown Oakland's food scene becomes increasingly upscale, this is a restaurant that feels upscale, but where you can get cheery service, candle-lit ambiance, and a complete meal — a big hunk of meat and generous sides — for less than $20.

My first bite of a crispy pork torchon appetizer gave me a good idea of the restaurant's globally accented Northern California sensibility. Loosely inspired by a recipe in the *Momofuku* cookbook, these were panko-crusted, deep-fried things, roughly the size and shape of a crab cake, and as rich and unctuous as you'd expect from something made from all the meat and fat picked off of a boiled pig head. What was striking was the dish's Asian flavor profile: a salty-sweet umami punch that tasted a bit like hoisin sauce, but turned out to be house-made Vietnamese-style fish sauce caramel (made, basically, by cooking fish sauce and palm sugar until the mixture gets dark and sticky). A fairly spicy kimchi salad and gingery pickled carrots completed the plate — a memorable start to a meal.

Just as enjoyable was an appetizer of perfectly cooked head-on shrimp and squid. Between the sucking out of the shrimp heads, the streak of bright red, earthy harissa-based sauce on the plate, and the little cubes of fried polenta (for pure texture and richness), this made for one zesty plate of food.

Steak and fries is about as classic as it gets when it comes to French brasserie or bistro dishes. At Mockingbird they serve a "bistro" steak (aka the teres major muscle — from the "back armpit area of the cow," Axelrod explained): a lean cut that's prized for its extreme tenderness. The kitchen's execution was on point: a well-seasoned, juicy steak cooked to a perfect medium-rare and paired with excellent French fries. The only flourish was a drizzle of bone marrow vinaigrette, which I loved more in theory than in practice — delicious, in those one or two bites when I could taste it, but mostly lost on the plate.

My favorite entrée was the Moroccan-style roasted half-chicken ($17), a bargain-priced dish that points to the restaurant's Zuni Café lineage. The key, as it is with Zuni's legendary birds (whose virtues have been enumerated by hundreds of home cooking bloggers), is that each Mockingbird chicken gets pre-salted one to two days before cooking — a crucial step that has a tenderizing effect and allows the seasoning to penetrate all the way into the meat. Slathered with a bold spice rub (coriander, cumin, fennel, and such), the skin crisps up beautifully in the oven while the flesh stays moist and well seasoned. What I was really into, though, were the sides: toothsome pomegranate seed-studded Israeli couscous, which had soaked up all of the bird's lovely juices, and crispy fried Brussels sprouts that were scattered on top like autumn leaves.

Though I never had a bad meal at Mockingbird, there were several dishes that would have benefited from a little editing. For instance, the restaurant's version of a fisherman's stew, made with mussels, clams, and house-made tesa (a kind of Italian-style bacon), had great elements: an intoxicating broth infused with the intense ocean flavor of the shellfish juices, plus a slice of grilled bread (topped with a garlicky slow-roasted tomato) that was perfect for soaking up the broth. But the stew was served in a shallow, wide-rimmed bowl crammed so full of shellfish and unwieldy vegetables — leeks cut too large and cooked not soft enough, and a giant braised endive — that the dish was difficult to eat.

A thick, boneless grilled pork chop was so juicy and flavorful that I swore it had been brined (Axelrod told me they just apply a simple herb marinade), but the meat needed a harder sear on top to caramelize and render more of the fat cap. And while this was a dish designed to please the meat-and-potatoes crowd, the sides — grilled chicories, Tokyo turnips, and bacon mashed potatoes — felt a bit perfunctory.

Minor flaws aside, I came away from Mockingbird with an admiration for the restaurant's homegrown, scratch-made ethos. Axelrod told me they've set up a kind of collaborative "chef-by-committee" approach, with Axelrod, Johnson, and sous chef Casey Moseley (another Zuni alum) all offering equal creative input. Two months in, there are still a few kinks to work out. And while Mockingbird may never be a destination restaurant — a place where you'd go expecting cutting-edge technique or artful plating — as a neighborhood bistro it's one of the better options in the area.

Oh, for all you chocolate lovers, don't miss Mockingbird's house-made, hand-shaped chocolate truffles, priced at a dollar apiece and available in a variety of flavors. One was coated in crinkly ginger sugar; another had a nutty hazelnut crunch. Like most everything else at Mockingbird, the truffles were rustic-looking and a bit rough around the edges — but also thoroughly enjoyable and surprisingly inexpensive. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

Mockingbird
1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland
510-290-0331
Hours: Tue.-Sat. 5:30-10 p.m.
Reservations accepted
Cash, all major credit cards

Sample Menu

Crispy Pork Torchon	$10
Grilled Head-On Shrimp and Squid	$11
Roasted Moroccan Half Chicken	$17
Bistro Steak and Fries	$18
House-made Chocolate Truffles (four)	$4

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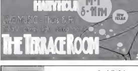
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WHAT THE FORK

WHERE TO EAT DUNGENESS CRAB IN THE EAST BAY

Plus: a salsa maker opens a taco stand inside Olde Depot Public House

By Luke Tsai

Here's cause for celebration: Northern California's commercial Dungeness crab season opened last Friday, and local crab started to appear on East Bay menus the very next day. Here are a few excellent places to get crab this week and beyond.

China Village (1335 Solano Ave., *Albany*): Perhaps my all-time favorite crab dish is China Village's ma po tofu Dungeness crab, a preparation that chef-owner John Yao invented as a way to use traditional Sichuan cooking techniques to highlight the local crustacean. Here, the classic combination of bean curd and Sichuan pepper-laced chili sauce is paired with an entire wok-fried crab instead of ground pork. The combination of sweet crab meat and spicy-savory sauce (made rich with lots of delicious crab tomalley) makes this the perfect thing to eat over white rice.

The restaurant serves one other Sichuan Dungeness crab special (sautéed whole crab with roasted chili peppers) and all of the classic Chinese preparations (ginger-scallion, salt-and-pepper, etc.) are also available. Yao told me he should have local crabs this week, but it's best to call ahead to make sure.

Southie (6311 College Ave., Oakland): If you're looking to enjoy the natural sweetness of fresh crab meat, the simple Dungeness crab roll at Southie is a good way to go. Plenty of Bay Area restaurants serve a version of this sandwich (a play on a New England lobster roll), but Southie's is one of the most satisfying — mainly because it's almost entirely crab meat, with just a bit of citrus aioli and sliced celery to round out the filling. The crab rolls should be available starting the week after Thanksgiving.

Homestead (4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland): Homestead will kick off the season by hosting a family-style crab feed on Wednesday, November 27, from 3 to 9 p.m. The $30-per-person prix fixe will include a grilled half-crab (plus an additional half-crab for $20 more), salad, roasted potatoes, Firebrand bread, and all of the traditional accoutrements (lemon, drawn butter, garlicky aioli, and other dipping sauces), plus pear sorbet for dessert.

Ramen Shop (5812 College Ave., Oakland): When Ramen Shop first opened this past winter, its Dungeness crab miso ramen was one of the dishes that best embodied the restaurant's approach — a traditional Japanese sensibility applied to the best local/seasonal ingredients of Northern California. Now, with the start of crab season, local Dungeness has started making an appearance on Ramen Shop's daily changing dinner menu. A version of the aforementioned crab miso ramen ($17) was on Saturday's menu; on Sunday there was a Dungeness crab and *chashu* donburi (rice bowl) for $13. Check Ramen Shop's online menu to see each day's crab offerings.

China Village's ma po tofu Dungeness crab Luke Tsai

Hang Ten Boiler (2306 Encinal Ave., *Alameda*): Whole Dungeness crab prepared "Asian Cajun" style — boiled in a plastic bag filled with butter, garlic, cayenne, and a Cajun spice blend — was a new discovery for me last year and quickly became one of my favorite ways to eat crab. Alameda's Hang Ten Boiler is currently my favorite Asian Cajun spot. The restaurant serves Dungeness crab pretty much all year round, but owner Paul Wong told me he started getting local crabs this past weekend. The crabs are market priced, but right now a two-pounder is selling for $32.99.

More Menu Changes at Olde Depot

Rebecca Boyles originally opened her bar/restaurant Olde Depot Public House (468 3rd St., Oakland) as a vegan business. In August, when she brought in a new chef who added meat options to the menu, some of the bar's vegan patrons were so upset that they staged a protest and posted a slew of angry Yelp reviews. Now, the Depot has even less of a vegan focus.

On Sunday, November 10, Mark Sorensen launched a permanent pop-up taco stand, Santpapas, in the kitchen of the Jack London district bar. The brief menu mainly consists of tacos, quesadillas, and a few appetizers and sides. Meat options include carnitas, carne asada, and chicken.

The star of the menu, however, is the salsa. Sorensen originally started Santpapas as a salsa company. After being a registered nurse for eighteen years, he had something of a mid-life crisis — a desire to do something where he could be his own boss. One year later, according to Sorensen, what started as a small side gig has expanded "like gangbusters." Now he's a full-time chef and while he told What the Fork that he barely slept last week, he said he's certain he made the right decision.

Sorensen said his food is inspired by his mother, who hails from a town called Santiago de Papasquiaro (nicknamed "Santpapas") in the Mexican state of Durango. His cooking philosophy is good ingredients, simple, straightforward preparation, and nothing too unwieldy to eat at a bar (no burritos, for instance) — and, of course, a central role for his line of salsas.

Sorensen said he hopes the bar's longtime vegan customers will recognize that "there's life beyond a seitan slider" and give his meatless options a try. For now, that's mostly limited to rice and beans and corn tortillas, roasted seasonal vegetables, and guacamole. Santpapas also sells a rice/beans/vegetable bowl topped with guacamole for $8. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

California Cuisine in Downtown

Flora
1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0100. Situated across the street from the Fox Theater in the ornate cobalt-blue Floral Depot building, Flora lures in a happy-hour and dinner crowd with its long glowing bar and ample room. The cuisine is standard Californian, more predictable than revolutionary — which might surprise fans of its owners' other establishments, Doña Tomás and Tacubaya. Still, Flora has nailed the classics — particularly the grilled strip steak (dinner). $$-$$$

Kitchen 388
388 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-893-3805. At the forefront of Adams Point's new renaissance, Kitchen 388 bears promise to anchor the neighborhood as a welcoming breakfast and lunch spot. Unfortunately, the service and menu can be uneven. The pulled-pork sandwich is excellent, as is the salmon tartine. The signature offering, a house-baked pop tart from pastry chef Alina Toyooka, is well made but (oddly) served cold. Helmed by accomplished Bay Area chef Joseph Dunbar, Kitchen 388 has the potential to iron out its kinks over time. $

Make Westing
1741 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-251-1400. Make Westing has an industrial Brooklyn aesthetic and a bocce court in the corner: two ingredients that help make it one of the darlings in Uptown's renaissance. Cocktails are a bit cheaper than at neighbors like Flora and Dogwood, though not quite as fancy. In a tiny micro-space behind the bar, chef Melinda Vaca (formerly of Sea Salt) cranks out remarkably tasty pub fare, like sturgeon confit in a jar with leeks and lemon peel, or a dense smooth wild mushroom pate, sweet and sour kohlrabi, and maple sugar aioli. Try to be forgiving if the food's not 100 percent on-point: Vaca sometimes works quadruple duty as prep cook, chef, server, and dishwasher. $$

Full Reviews Online
Nearly 600 reviews searchable by food, region, and price at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Plum
2214 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7586. Star chef Daniel Patterson's more casual, scaled-down neighborhood version of San Francisco's Coi serves up farm-fresh ingredients in unusual California fusion combinations. Since Patterson stepped down as chef, Kim Alter (formerly of Haven) has taken over and has added a $45 five-course tasting menu option. Strikingly dark, sleek setting; impressive wine list. $$$

Spice Monkey Cafe
1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-288-1170. A beautiful North African setting of tile, burbling fountains, and candlelight hosts a menu of organic comfort food from around the world. While many of the dishes could use more of the spicing that gives the restaurant its name, the house baked potatoes, the spicy coleslaw, the blackened red snapper with napa cabbage, and the slow-roasted pork shoulder are satisfying mealtime options. Impressive menu of loose-leaf tea blends. $$

Price Key
Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Classic Guilin Rice Noodles
261A 10th St., Oakland, 510-290-9353. Guilin, a city in China's Guangxi province, is more famous for its scenery than its food, but Guilin rice noodles are the one dish that's known throughout China. The dish — a deceptively simple combination of noodles, meat, pickled vegetables, and broth — is said to date back some 2,000 years. But here in the United States, it's almost completely obscure, making Oakland Chinatown's Classic Guilin Rice Noodles a must-visit destination for anyone interested in regional Chinese cuisine. The titular dish features spaghetti-like white rice noodles, your choice of five different meats, roasted peanuts, minced garlic, pickled long beans, a salty seasoning liquid, and a bowl of barely seasoned beef broth on the side. Other interesting offerings include Liuzhou spicy snail soup; jumbo-size lotus leaf wraps; and thick, nutty grain soy milk. $

Hogs Apothecary
375 40th St., Oakland, 510-338-3847. HogsApothecary.com. Any conversation about Hog's Apothecary ought to begin and end with its beer list: 33 rotating drafts lovingly curated by a certified cicerone serve as an amazingly diverse, eminently quaffable encyclopedia of California's craft beer scene. You'd suspect that the food would play second fiddle at a place like this, but chef John Streit has put together an impressive menu that relies heavily on whole-animal butchery, heritage grains, and seasonal vegetables. The most prominent feature is a selection of good — and, in some cases, fancy — sausages made from animals that Streit butchers himself in-house. But beautiful seasonal dishes like an early October smoked eggplant and melon salad or a Moroccan-style roast leg of lamb (with merlot, delicata squash, and soupy farro that had soaked up all the lamb's meaty juices) go far beyond what you'd find at your typical sausage-and-beer joint. $$-$$$

Couyon Cajun & Po'boys
3609 Martin Luther King Jr Way (inside Eli's Mile High Club), Oakland, 510-808-7101 or ElisMileHigh.com/CouyonCajun. As long as you're okay with bare-bones amenities, loud music, and the presence of a rough-looking character or two, Couyon Cajun & Po'boys, the new restaurant inside the punk-rock dive bar Eli's Mile High Club, is worth checking out. Yes, it's a dive bar — a strictly casual, cash-only operation. But chefs David Hlebik and Louise Martin make nearly everything — the sauces, the cured meats, and the soup stocks — from scratch. The star attractions are po'boys like the Couyo Kitty: an excellent version of a traditional New Orleans-style fried catfish sandwich. But it's the appetizers and sides that will keep me coming back: pulled-pork-topped mac 'n' cheese, chowder-like corn maque choux, and Cajun-style fried pork belly "cracklins." All bar food ought to be like this: nothing frou-frou, nothing served in a mason jar, almost everything priced at less than $10 — but everything tasty and made with care. $-$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Crab Feast An all-you-can-eat family-style supper including grilled Dungeness crab in the shell, [illegible] salad, roasted potatoes and [illegible] Artisan Bread, plus [illegible] with [illegible] for Market Wed., Nov. 27, 5-8 p.m. $55. Homestead, 4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-420-6962, HomesteadOakland.com.

Kitchen Food Market pop-up [illegible] a Market selection of shops, workshops, edible foods [illegible] good food, and [illegible] Thu., Nov. 21, 5-8 p.m. Emeryville Public Market, 5959 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-652-9300, EmeryvilleMarket.com.

Farmstead Cheeses and Wines Wine Tasting A biweekly wine tasting with all proceeds benefiting local schools. Fridays, 5-7:30 p.m. [illegible] $1 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 3210 La Salle Ave., Oakland 510-864-9463, FarmsteadCheesesandWines.com.

Farmstead Wine Tasting [illegible] by Farmstead's knowledgeable staff with all proceeds going to local [illegible]. 5-7 p.m., Saturdays, 2-5 p.m. $1 per flight. Farmstead Oakland Wines, 3210 La Salle Ave., Oakland, 510-864-9463, FarmsteadCheesesandWines.com.

Got Market Food Market Featuring food trucks, tents, [illegible] Market — [illegible] Peter's Kettle Corn, Mustache Mike's, Kau Kau Corner, and [illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. free. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., between [illegible] 510-522-7221, [illegible].

Native American Heritage / Thanksgiving Dinner [illegible] buffet dinner. Wed., Nov. 27, 6-8 p.m. $12 general admission, free for [illegible]. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley 510-642-9490.

Off the Grid With food trucks, drinks for sale, music, kids' activities, and half-price museum admission Fridays, 5-9 p.m. free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Paro Pop-Up and Movie Night [illegible] by the Spanish restaurant [illegible] by a movie. Fri., Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

"Tagine" Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Moroccan food [illegible] by chef [illegible]. Every other Thursday [illegible] Cafe, 1429 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible].

Vintage Berkeley Tasting flights [illegible] wines for $5 at both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook earlier in the day for details on what wines will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-8600.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Oakland Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Oakland Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

DAMA Farm Fresh Choice Community Oakland Grand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in Berkeley's low-income neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 2:30-6:30 p.m., free, 510-848-1704, EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano Institute for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley, 510-526-1400, [illegible].

Bayside Center Keith [illegible] Market Fresh [illegible] supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Park, [illegible] 510-357-8000, [illegible].

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, foods, products, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free, 510-535-6915. Fruitvale BART [illegible], 3401 East 12th St., Oakland.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market This weekly market features more than 70 producers, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free, 800-897-3276, [illegible] Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275, [illegible].

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers market featuring locally grown and prepared foods from more than 35 farmers and producers [illegible]. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-3276, AgriculturalInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000, [illegible].

Kaiser Permanente Berkeley Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Berkeley, [illegible].

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Market With vendors selling fresh, all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free, PCFMA.com. Kaiser [illegible], 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With [illegible], an organic chocolatier, [illegible] fresh wild fish, dairy and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, [illegible] fresh foods, and seasonal [illegible]. The market [illegible] music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free, [illegible], KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. [illegible] Kensington.

Montclair Village Oakland Market Featuring organic [illegible]. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] Downtown between [illegible], LaSalle and Moraga Aves. Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With breads, specialty foods, all-organic produce and more for sale, along with [illegible] programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland [illegible] Hospital Farmers' Market [illegible] and WIC [illegible] Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. [illegible] 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland [illegible] and Lowell Farmers' Market With a healthy [illegible] seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and [illegible] market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. [illegible] Saturday Farmers' Market, [illegible] Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Features seasonal [illegible] flowers, and other organic foods along with [illegible]. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/oldoakland.

Oakland Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, [illegible] flowers, Berkeley foods, yoga classes, live music and art and [illegible] for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Webster and Water St., Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, family grown fruit, [illegible] chickens, butters, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. free, RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond [illegible] Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic Berkeley [illegible] butters, Berkeley foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. [illegible].

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

[illegible] Market California [illegible] farmers offer seasonal [illegible] other fruits and nuts, fresh foods, eggs, baked goods, family-caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free, [illegible]. [illegible] Parking Lot, 5300 [illegible] Ave., Oakland.

Berkeley South Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic Berkeley flowers, [illegible] foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley [illegible], 63rd and Adeline streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

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Sunday, Nov. 24, 3-5 p.m., $15. DuendeOakland.com

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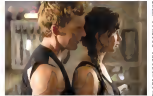
MOVIES

GET UP, STAND UP

In dystopian America (*The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*) and Nazi Germany (*The Book Thief*), sparks of rebellion

By Kelly Vance



The Hunger Games: Catching Fire is the second part of a trilogy and thus more of a place-holder.

Effie Trinket, contact your broker. Liquidate your entire portfolio. You too, Caesar Flickerman. The revolution is afoot. And Katniss Everdeen is its leader.

When we last saw Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence), the muscular-shouldered virgin huntress deity with the bow and arrows, she had triumphed in The Hunger Games, the cruel blood sport organized by the rulers of the plutocratic oligarchy of Panem to subjugate the proletarian masses in the various "districts" outside the capital and cull out rebellious youths, while simultaneously providing some decadent fight-to-the-death entertainment for the bored executive class.

Katniss and her District 12 co-competitor Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) emerged alive, but their victory rings hollow. Now all-powerful President Snow (the ever-vulpine Donald Sutherland), in league with master game-maker Plutarch Heavensbee (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and handler Haymitch Abernathy (Woody Harrelson) has ordered Katniss, Peeta, and other previous "tribute" victors to go back into the hellish simulated battle arena — to snuff out the sparks of rebellion. Irritating cheerleader Effie (Elizabeth Banks) and annoying emcee Caesar (Stanley Tucci), the comic-relief voices of the oligarchy, are whipping up the TV audience, but Katniss, Peeta, and the other gladiators are terminally surly. They don't care if they live or die, they just want to fuck up the show.

Well-intentioned as it is, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, adapted by Simon Beaufoy and Michael deBruyn from Suzanne Collins' novel, suffers from the perennial malady that afflicts second parts of trilogies. It's stuck in the middle of the proceedings, neither fresh nor conclusive. The ending of *Catching Fire* is spoiled by our knowledge that there's more to come and that Katniss can't die until things are resolved. This installment, directed by former music-vid maker Francis Lawrence, is thus more of a place-holder, a promise that the setting of accounts is not quite here yet.

Character kudos to Jeffrey Wright, Amanda Plummer, and Sam Claflin as fellow killers. Lawrence is as stoically impressive as ever. The trap is set. The revolution is about to happen, but not until the two-part "final third," in 2014 and 2015. Separate admission, folks. (Katniss has her corporate masters and so do we.) But we expect heads to roll. It's not exactly Eisenstein, but we'll take what we can get.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

Directed by Francis Lawrence. With Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. *Opens Friday.*

The Book Thief

Directed by Brian Percival. With Sophie Nélisse and Geoffrey Rush. *Opens Friday.*

Liesel Meminger begins the life of her mind the night she rescues a smoldering book from the dying embers of a bonfire. Nine-year-old Liesel (played by Sophie Nélisse) in her Hitler Youth uniform, is part of the crowd on November 9, 1938, celebrating the *Kristallnacht* — the violent Nazi-organized pogrom against Jews and all things Jewish — with a joyous burning of "degenerate, decadent" books in the town square. However, something deep inside Liesel is attracted to books in general, no matter who wrote them, and she's already made up her mind against Hitler, despite what she's been taught in school. And so, after everyone has gone home to bed and the square is empty, she picks up the half-baked volume of H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man* and takes it home with her, still smoking under her coat.

"Liesel Meminger" is a fictional character and *The Book Thief*, directed by British TV vet Brian Percival (*Downton Abbey*) from a screenplay by Michael Petroni, is an adaptation of the bestselling novel of the same name by Australian author Markus Zusak. From that English-language pedigree and the involvement of such behind-the-camera talent as composer John Williams, we could be excused for expecting Liesel's story to be a typical Hollywood-style WWII "inspirational" fable, warm and cuddly when it's not dwelling on fascist brutality — the legend of a "good German girl" who stands up to the Nazis, hides a young Jewish man named Max (Ben Schnetzer) in her basement, and goes to heaven in a cloud of righteousness.

That pretty much happens. But there are more dimensions to *The Book Thief*, chiefly in the expressive, soulful eyes of its thirteen-year-old French-Canadian lead actor Nélisse (*Monsieur Lazhar*), but also in the vivid character acting of the rest of the cast, the superior production values, and Zusak's gracefully grim narrative structure.

The girl is illiterate when she arrives at the doorstep of childless foster parents Hans and Rosa Hubermann (Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson), who take her in because Liesel's mother, a communist, is "going away," perhaps to nearby Dachau camp. Watson's Rosa is a marvelous portrayal of the classic tough but fair hausfrau whose favorite label for everyone around her is *Saukerl* or *Saumensch* (slang for "bastard"). It becomes a family joke, quite different than the case of Liesel's classmates mocking her for her lack of formal education. Rush lends his customary kindly presence as accordion-playing housepainter Hans, who teaches his new daughter to appreciate literature.

The little working-class family cares for sickly Jewish refugee Max at great risk to themselves, all because his father saved Hans' life in the previous world war. Three good Germans who hang the swastika banners and wear the uniforms but keep their thoughts to themselves. And Liesel is the one to carry on their dreams. There are more rebels: Liesel's friend Rudy the track athlete (Nico Liersch), who idolizes the black American sprinter Jesse Owens, and Frau Hermann (Barbara Auer), the burgermeister's wife, from whose well-stocked library Liesel "borrows" book after book.

The depiction of everyday routine in a small German town under the Third Reich (shot at Studio Babelsberg outside Berlin) is minutely detailed, fully the equal of anything by R.W. Fassbinder, Fritz Lang, Roman Polanski, Volker Schlöndorff, or Steven Spielberg. The townsfolk are hanging on for dear life, heiling Hitler and sneaking peeks at forbidden storybooks while living in a state of constant terror, jumping every time there's a knock at the door. In that atmosphere it's utterly appropriate for the unseen narrator to be Death himself (the voice of actor Roger Allam) who wryly describes himself as one of Hitler's most obedient servants. We always thought it was the other way around. ●

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Zainab.Mohammed@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

The Book Thief See this week's issue (131 min.).

The Broken Circle Breakdown [illegible] the power [illegible] music [illegible] the [illegible] of people all over the world. The [illegible] story of a musician, a tattoo artist, and their cancer-stricken daughter is accompanied by the authentic-sounding Appalachian bluegrass music their band plays [illegible] in the Flanders region of Belgium. Singer/tattooist Elise (actress Veerle Baetens) has a fine singing voice, and her husband Didier is played by banjo player Johan Heldenbergh, based on his Flemish-language hit stage play (co-written with Mieke Dobbels). Director Felix van Groeningen uses the plentiful tunes to comment on the action, and the performances are naturalistic and popular. Worth a look for adventurous melody seekers (111 min.). (K.V.)

Delivery Man Amiable slacker David Wozniak (Vince Vaughn) drives a delivery truck for his family's company and is content with a life of mediocrity. [illegible] when he learns that he is the biological father of more than 500 offspring and many of them are suing to learn his identity, he decides to hold himself accountable for his lifestyle. He finds some of his progeny and [illegible] to them [illegible] when [illegible] girlfriend announces her pregnancy, she keeps her expectations low. (105 min.)

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire See this week's issue (146 min.).

ONGOING

12 Years a Slave Never one to shy away from blunt, [illegible] British filmmaker Steve McQueen (*Hunger, Shame*) plunges us into pre-Civil War America, where a cultured black "freedman" from upstate New York named Solomon Northup (actor Chiwetel Ejiofor) is kidnapped and sold into bondage in the plantations of Louisiana. In the screenplay by John Ridley, based on Northup's 1853 memoir, [illegible] Northup's dignity in the face [illegible] interesting are the plentiful villains: Michael Fassbender as a [illegible] Bible-thumping planter, Sarah Paulson as his jealous wife, Paul Dano as a bully with a whip, Paul Giamatti as a New Orleans slave dealer, Benedict Cumberbatch as a "kind" master, et al. [illegible] are the most heartbreaking: Lupita Nyong'o as [illegible] and [illegible] Patsey, and Alfre Woodard as Mrs. Shaw, [illegible] Sensational [illegible] Northup's 150-year-old [illegible] the [illegible] part of our history. [illegible] (133 min.). (K.V.)

About Time When Tim Lake (Domhnall Gleeson) is 21, his father (Bill Nighy) informs him a secret. The men in their family can travel through time. Although he can't change history, Tim resolves to [illegible] his life by getting a girlfriend. He meets Mary (Rachel McAdams), falls in love, and finally wins her heart via time-travel and a little cunning. [illegible] his unusual [illegible] that his special ability can't [illegible] the problems of ordinary life. (124 min.)

All Is Lost Just a lone man (unpretentious Robert Redford) aboard a sinking sailboat in the middle of the ocean, and what he does to try to survive. [illegible] J.C. Chandor's [illegible] high-seas adventure [illegible] except that in its way it's [illegible] character study, played by Redford [illegible] with virtually no dialogue. (107 min.). (K.V.)

American Promise Two middle-class African-American families from Brooklyn can't send a son to a prestigious, mostly white Manhattan private school — to give both Idris and Seun, [illegible] boys, a good education [illegible] the natural and [illegible] adjustments they must make as they progress. The result is this fascinating documentary

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below by Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, [illegible] of kids and documentarians in their own right, it [illegible] Brewster years in the [illegible] lives, and it says a [illegible] color, class, competition and plain human nature in success-driven [illegible] urban America. (135 min.) (KV)

The Best Man Holiday Nearly 15 years after they were all together as a group, college friends [illegible] (Morris Chestnut), Harper (Taye Diggs), Candace (Regina Hall), [illegible] (Terrence Howard), Robyn (Sanaa Lathan), Jordan (Nia Long), [illegible] (Harold Perrineau) and Mia (Monica Calhoun) finally reunite over the [illegible] and [illegible] just and easy it is for long-forgotten rivalries and passionate romances to be reignited. (122 min.)

Blue Is the Warmest Color [illegible] director Abdellatif Kechiche's three-hour [illegible] study of a French high-school girl's [illegible] with a slightly older [illegible] artist [illegible] Adèle Exarchopoulos (as the shy younger lover, Adèle) and Léa Seydoux, as the more experienced but equally vulnerable Emma. That the two young women engage in sudden, graphic sex is probably less important than the way Kechiche and his writing collaborator Ghalia Lacroix (adapting the [illegible] by Julie Maroh) frame that relationship [illegible] but the [illegible] physically [illegible] its own space. We get the sense that only in Adèle's and Emma's feverish bumping and grinding is there any hope of [illegible] for them. (179 min.) (KV)

Blue Jasmine One of the very best [illegible] in Woody Allen's lengthy [illegible] thanks [illegible] at Cate Blanchett in the role of a snobbish [illegible] [illegible] socialite fallen on hard times who comes to stay with her polar-opposite [illegible] sister (Sally Hawkins) [illegible] in San Francisco's Mission District. Yes, Allen is [illegible] adapting Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* [illegible] but as [illegible] as fresh as the morning, with a [illegible] and melancholy [illegible] with [illegible] the [illegible] the passionate dialogue. It [illegible] the Allen [illegible] highlight reel. (98 min.) (CR)

Capital The [illegible] of a giant [illegible] in Europe [illegible] to buy the company. (114 min.)

Captain Phillips Richard Phillips (Tom Hanks), the captain of a US container ship, must use his wits to help his crew escape from Somali pirates, who've taken the ship hostage. (133 min.)

Carrie This [illegible] version of Stephen King's [illegible] about a bullied, telekinetically gifted high-school girl and her [illegible] senior prom [illegible] may be the [illegible] of the bunch. [illegible] Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore are very good as Carrie and her violent religious-maniac mother, a slight improvement over Sissy Spacek and Piper Laurie in the 1976 original movie. In fact, we could say that director Kimberly Peirce (*Boys Don't Cry*) [illegible] for the [illegible] Brian De Palma version [illegible] (99 min.) (KV)

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 Inventor Flint Lockwood (Bill Hader) joins the company run by his idol, Chester V [illegible]

at holy mankind. Inventor Flint soon discovers that his [illegible] version [illegible] and are [illegible] hybrids. [illegible] With the fate of humanity in Flint's hands, he and his friends set out to save the world from [illegible] shrimpanzees, and other deliciously dangerous [illegible] (95 min.)

The Counselor Dull decadence [illegible] director [illegible] and [illegible] about an [illegible] El Paso criminal lawyer (aka, [illegible] Michael Fassbender) and his dangerous [illegible] The cast gives [illegible] to fabulously rich, and uniformly [illegible] Brad Pitt [illegible] Cameron Diaz [illegible] Javier Bardem [illegible] (117 min.) (KV)

Dallas Buyers Club [illegible] Matthew McConaughey has specialized in [illegible] but his [illegible] homophobic rodeo cowboy who finds out he's HIV-positive in 1985 [illegible] director and [illegible] the AZT drug cocktail [illegible] may be his very best. (117 min.) (KV)

Don Jon Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt [illegible] Jon Martello, a New Jersey guy who goes to church regularly, [illegible] his parents, takes pride in scoring girls at nightclubs, and [illegible] masturbation [illegible] If that performance were all it [illegible] as passionate character study of a young man on a journey of self-discovery. But JGL, who [illegible] and director [illegible] Jersey Boy [illegible] with Jon, his buddies, his folks, and his new girlfriend [illegible] (Scarlett Johansson) [illegible] the words. Luckily [illegible] there's the figure of Esther (Julianne Moore), a "cougar" [illegible] who [illegible] (90 min.) (KV)

Ender's Game When [illegible] aliens [illegible] Earth, only the heroics of [illegible] (Ben Kingsley) [illegible] a victory [illegible] Col. Hyrum Graff (Harrison Ford) and his [illegible] military program [illegible] Ender Wiggin (Asa Butterfield) [illegible] an unusual gift for the training, easily mastering all of the challenges thrown at him. [illegible] takes Ender [illegible]

prepare him for the oncoming war. (114 min.)

Enough Said Julia Louis-Dreyfus, nobody's idea of an [illegible] her best [illegible] director [illegible] Los Angeles [illegible] Eva. But it's James Gandolfini [illegible] who [illegible] as Albert, a laid-back single father who pairs up with [illegible] Eva [illegible] but the cast of writer-director Nicole Holofcener's [illegible] Catherine Keener as a [illegible] Tracey Fairaway as Eva's daughter and [illegible] Toni Collette as Eva's best friend [illegible] (93 min.) (KV)

Free Birds Pardoned by the president, a lucky turkey named Reggie (Owen Wilson) [illegible] and Jake (Woody Harrelson) [illegible] history-changing [illegible] and Reggie travel back in time to the year 1621, just before the first Thanksgiving. The plan [illegible] turkeys from [illegible] holiday dinners. (91 min.)

Gravity Director Alfonso Cuarón [illegible] spectacle [illegible] and [illegible] with his two-character [illegible] (Sandra Bullock) and George Clooney [illegible] with an [illegible] display of [illegible] in a routine [illegible] orbiting the Earth [illegible] struggle on the edge of [illegible] (91 min.) (CR)

Inequality for All [illegible] thorough, user-friendly documentary [illegible] and [illegible] Robert Reich [illegible] highlights of his "Wealth and Poverty" class [illegible] explain how and why [illegible] hurting everyone in the country [illegible] (90 min.) (KV)

Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa Irascible [illegible] (Johnny Knoxville) and his young [illegible] grandson Billy (Jackson Nicoll) [illegible] across America. Hidden cameras capture [illegible] insane and shocking encounters with a diverse set of unsuspecting citizens, including

[illegible] (and that [illegible] children's beauty pageant, [illegible] world [illegible] (92 min.)

Kill Your Darlings [illegible] his [illegible] with [illegible] (102 min.)

Last Vegas Aging [illegible] Billy (Michael Douglas), Paddy (Robert De Niro), Archie (Morgan Freeman) and Sam (Kevin Kline) have been best friends [illegible] When Billy finally proposes to his much-younger girlfriend, all four [illegible] go to Las Vegas to celebrate the end of Billy's longtime bachelorhood and relive their glory days. However, the [illegible] discover that the [illegible] decades [illegible] and tested their friendship in ways they [illegible] imagined. (104 min.)

Lee Daniels' The Butler Filmmaker [illegible] and [illegible] Oprah Winfrey the [illegible] of the Civil Rights era [illegible] through the eyes of [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. [illegible] Malcolm X, but in the [illegible] of a [illegible] Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker), who served seven US presidents and [illegible] only occasionally [illegible] history [illegible]

[illegible] point (126 min.) (KV)

Muscle Shoals Greg "Freddy" Camalier's agreeable, [illegible] documentary [illegible] story of the [illegible] Muscle Shoals, Alabama recording scene [illegible] Rick Hall's FAME [illegible] the Swampers [illegible] of the [illegible] Sticks and Sevens [illegible] with the [illegible] Aretha Franklin, [illegible] Pickett, Percy Sledge, [illegible] Gregg Allman, Bono, Mick Jagger, Jimmy Cliff [illegible] Candi Staton [illegible] and the [illegible] Spooner Oldham? (111 min.) (KV)

Prisoners Keller Dover (Hugh Jackman) faces a parent's worst nightmare when his 6-year-old daughter, Anna, and her friend go missing. The only lead is an old motorhome [illegible] parked on their street. The [illegible] of the investigation, [illegible] Loki (Jake Gyllenhaal), arrests the driver (Paul Dano), but a lack of evidence [illegible] Loki to release [illegible] his only suspect. Dover, knowing that his daughter's life is at stake, decides that he has no choice [illegible] into his own hands. (153 min.)

Ram-Leela A man (Ranveer Singh) and [illegible] (Deepika Padukone) [illegible] in love [illegible] (155 min.)

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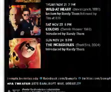
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Thor: The Dark World In ancient times, the gods of Asgard fought and won a war against an evil race known as the Dark Elves. The survivors were neutralized and their ultimate weapon — the Aether — was buried in a secret location. Hundreds of years later Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) finds the Aether and becomes its host, forcing Thor (Chris Hemsworth) to bring her to Asgard before Dark Elf Malekith (Christopher Eccleston) captures her and uses the weapon to destroy the Nine Realms — including Earth. (111 min.)

Wadjda A rebellious Saudi girl (Waad Mohammed) enters a Koran recitation competition of her school and hopes to win enough money to buy her own bicycle. (98 min.)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

[illegible] (137 min., 1985). Behind the Scenes: The Art and Craft of Cinema with Randy Thom, Sound Designer (Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley 7:30)
The Gang's All Here (103 min., 1943). (The Magick Lantern, Point Richmond, 7:37)
Boogie Nights (155 min., 1997). Parkway (New Parkway Theater, Oakland, 9:15)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

[illegible] (88 min., 1987). Fassbinder's Favorites (BAM/PFA, 7:00)
Film from 1 to 2 (97 min., 1981). Afterimage: Agnès Varda on Filmmaking (BAM/PFA, 8:45)
[illegible] (121 min., 2006). One Candy Cowens Pop-Up: Horror and Spanish Film Studies (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 10:00)
[illegible] (94 min., 1987). Randy Ann Mayhew's Movie Action (Parkway, 10:30)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

[illegible] (95 min., 1985). Martial Arts Mayhem (Parkway, 3:00)
[illegible] (120 min., 1988). Theater the Scenes: The Art and Craft of Design with Randy Thom, Sound Designer (BAM/PFA, 7:00)
[illegible] (113 min., 1981). Love Is Colder Than Death: The Theater of Rainer Werner Fassbinder (BAM/PFA, 8:45)
[illegible] (128 min., 1992). Cinemaniacs Theater (Parkway, 10:30)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

[illegible] (124 min., 1982). Love Is Colder Than Death: The Cinema of Rainer Werner Fassbinder (BAM/PFA, 5:00)
The Time Machine (103 min., 1960). Parkway Classics (Parkway, 6:00)
Holy [illegible] People (52 min., 1987). (The Lumen, Berkeley, 7:30)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

The Incredibles (115 min., 2004). Theater the Scenes: The Art and Craft of Design with Randy Thom, Sound Designer (BAM/PFA, 3:00)
Frankenstein (134 min., 2013). Presented by Prandia Theater Live (Rialto Cinemas Cerrito, 7:00)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Let the Fire Burn (96 min., 2013). Presented by Brooklyn Film the Theater Company (Parkway, 6:30)
American Promise (135 min., 2013). Doc Night (Parkway, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27

September 11 – The Rise Road Harbor Part IV (90 min., 2013). (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30) ●

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DOING IT PUSSY MONSTER STYLE

Oakland-based entertainment company Pussy Monster aims to promote LGBT musicians who aren't afraid of being out, proud, and in your face

By Sam Levin

Pota Nolasco (center in sunglasses) and her Pussy Monster crew

Apriüm

When Richmond-based hip-hop artist Phresh (aka Courtney Oliver) was preparing to release her first mixtape in 2009, she noticed that her producer wasn't all that enthusiastic about it. He seemed pumped in the studio, but didn't attend her showcases and wasn't promoting her. Finally "The producer said, and I quote, 'You are the shit. If you dress like a girl, I'll rock with you. I can't get behind this look,'" Oliver recalled.

"That look" refers to how she dresses — tomboyish, like a "stud," she said. Although Oliver said she respected the fact that her producer was honest about his feelings, the rejection "just made me more hungry."

Now Oliver is collaborating with a new Oakland-based entertainment company that is promoting LGBT women in a way that is sure to get her more attention than her apathetic producer. She's "doing it Pussy Monster-style."

That's the slogan of a new fashion, entertainment, and music venture, which formally launched on Valentine's Day this year and was inspired by a raunchy T-shirt made by Pussy Monster's founder, Pota Nolasco. Nolasco, who grew up in the East Bay and lives in Oakland, first wrote "Pussy Monster" on one of her tank tops several years ago while out with a group of friends in Las Vegas. To Nolasco, it was just a provocative play on the name of the Sesame Street character Cookie Monster, and was one of many obscene phrases she and her friends were sporting. People loved it.

"They were raving about it. 'Where did you get your shirt? I totally want one,'" she recalled people saying. "That's where I got the idea that this can be a style of its own. I realize that it's a little vulgar, but that's the point of it — to be in your face. It's shocking, yet humorous. ... It's meant to be bold."

The Pussy Monster franchise, Nolasco said, "is just for us: for LGBT women, by LGBT women."

Nolasco has a background in community activism, LGBT advocacy, and public health. She spent part of her childhood in and out of the juvenile justice and foster care systems. "It showed me that there was really a lack of services for youth like myself, a young woman of color," she said.

By age sixteen, however, Nolasco had already begun working with nonprofit and advocacy organizations in the East Bay, including Young Women United for Oakland and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights' Books Not Bars program. Now 30, Nolasco works as an HIV testing and counseling coordinator at Tri-City Health Center, a Fremont-based clinic that has a program specifically aimed at helping transgender people. That's her day job, at least.

At night, she is easily spotted driving to and from clubs and events around Oakland in her green Ford Expedition SUV, which features the bold, white-lettered Pussy Monster logo plastered on the back window along with the URL for the Pussy Monster website (PussyMonsterStyle.com).

"The truck has become a little celebrity all by itself," she said. "Everywhere I go, especially at night, I can see people taking pictures behind me because the flash is going off. ... The truck is more known than we are."

Nolasco is well aware of the raw marketing value of the Pussy Monster name. Even though her commute to work is short, she and she often notices a spike in visitors to her website during that time, sometimes as many as fifty people logging on after seeing the truck. In some cases, she'll observe people's reactions in person. "'Oh my god, it's a site for lesbians.' Or people are like, 'What do you do, is this a pet place?'" Anything that drives traffic and creates buzz for the artists and the brand is a good thing, she said.

Pussy Monster now has a crew of about two artists, designers, models, and others who are working on the company's fashion line, hosting events and parties, and supporting musicians. In the clothing department, the company sells its gear — mainly T-shirts, hoodies, and hats, all with the simple, eye-catching Pussy Monster logo — across the country.

On the music side, Nolasco is doing marketing and promotions for musicians, helping them book shows and get stage time — sometimes at Pussy Monster-sponsored events — and connecting them to producers, videographers, and more. She plans to launch casting calls and to expand the website as a platform to showcase artists' music. At this stage, she is primarily working with Oliver (Phresh) and another Richmond-based artist, a female rapper named Billie Jr., who is also Pussy Monster's videographer.

Nolasco, who identifies as a lesbian, said there is clearly a need for this kind of support in the Bay Area and across the country, where artists, especially lesbians of color, often struggle to find labels and collaborators that allow them to be themselves. "Most of the music out there is so mainstream: boy meets girl, falls in love. This is for us," she said. "This is more for our culture, our lifestyle. ... It can be hard for LGBT artists to find music labels that acknowledge their talent. And it's so male-dominated."

While it's great when closeted celebrities come out, it'd be even better if artists have a space to be open when they are emerging, said "Sluggo" Shay Franco-Clausen, owner of PlayNice Productions, which promotes LGBT inclusive events and is partnering with Pussy Monster. "You look at the mainstream right now and how many openly gay artists start in the game openly gay?" she said. "They normally don't. They have to get into it and once they are established, it's, 'by the way, I'm gay.'"

When producers decline to take on LGBT artists because of their own biases, it's obvious "they are missing out," she said, pointing to the fact that people discriminate against her when they realize that she is married to a woman.

This discrimination can play out in direct and subtle ways, said Oliver. If a producer is not explicitly telling her that she needs to dress more femininely, he may be reluctant to work with her for fear that he will face backlash from others, she said. In one case, she recalled, "When I was brought into the studio, you could feel the energy shift. ... This is not the type of woman they were looking for. She's raw and we really like her style, but she doesn't fit the brand we are trying to promote."

She continued, "What can you say to that? I just have to keep searching. ... I don't conform to anybody. The day I do will be the day I die."

Oliver said that she doesn't want to classify herself as an "LGBT artist" per se, but is simply interested in working with people who don't push her to be something she's not. "I dress the way that I feel. I don't wear the nice clothes. Phresh is fresh in her own way."

For her, the message of Pussy Monster is simple. "It's being proud of who you are. It's not hiding it. It's being that girl that has Pussy Monster clothes and doesn't care that the clothes say 'pussy.' It's being a voice for people who wouldn't necessarily wear it."

Plus, she said, the logos attract a lot of interest from men. "Pussy is something that everybody wants." ●

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Valerie Troutt

The Sound of Peace

Oakland singer-songwriter Valerie Troutt's father is a blues and jazz singer-guitarist and her mother a preacher. She grew up singing gospel music at Bishop Walter Hawkins' Love Center Church, studied jazz at The New School in New York City, and spent two years as a member of Linda Tillery's Cultural Heritage Center Choir. All of those influences shine through the music on her first full-length CD, *The Sound of Peace*.

There was a time when black love was divine and music was her child/Through her smile lays our history of pain and laughter/Spirit guide us along, she sings on "Danida," a ballad by the late Kenny Kirkland to which she set lyrics. Maya Kronfeld's elegant piano chords supply the sole accompaniment as Troutt caresses the plaintive melody in sustain rich, at times breathy mezzo tones. It's the most satisfying song of the bunch.

Other players, including bassists David Ewell and Raul Perales, drummers Darian Gray and Darrell Green, tenor saxophonist Howard Wiley, guitarist Eric Valgee, and harmony vocalist Selas B. Lalgee, join in on the remaining nine numbers, seven of them penned by Troutt. An optimistic attitude permeates many of her tunes, particularly the self-affirming title track and the simultaneously swinging and funky "Suddenly Awake." And the singer's arrangements of Bart Howard's "Fly Me to the Moon" and Rodgers and Hart's "I Didn't Know What Time It Was" take those familiar standards down rhythmic roads much less traveled. (self release)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

Valerie Troutt performs at Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) on Monday, Nov. 25, 8 p.m., $15-$20. Yoshis.com

Cut Copy

Free Your Mind

Cut Copy has been making joyous, memorable, sunny dance-rock anthems for the past decade. The members of the Aussie synth-pop group have never been much for subtlety. Some of their best songs have titles such as "Lights and Music," "Need You Now," and "Saturdays." But that's the essence and beauty of Cut Copy — it's all about creating an uncomplicated great time.

Thematically, the band's fourth album, *Free Your Mind*, isn't much of a departure from its earlier material. In fact, Free Your Mind might ooze more cheese than ever. *You've gotta reach the sky if you want your life to shine*, goes the title track. But musically it's full-on acid house. Channeling the Summer of Love, Cut Copy has never sounded so utterly, psychedelically blissed out: Lead singer Dan Whitford's voice shimmers in and out of each track amid groovy bongos, soul samples, weird bird-like noises, and a ceaselessly pounding beat.

Lyrically, *Free Your Mind* oozes more cheese than ever. You've *gotta reach the sky if you want your life to shine*, goes the title track. Over and over again, Cut Copy is telling us to stop thinking, chill out, and lose ourselves in love. The band has used the word "euphoria" to describe *Free Your Mind* in numerous interviews, and it's an apt descriptor, because all fifty minutes of the album are filled with dizzyingly spaced-out dance music. For some, that might seem trying. But if you want to be consumed by the desire to dance, "We Are Explorers," which pulses giddily with classic house piano melodies and laser sound effects, and the thumper "Meet Me in the House of Love," will promptly accomplish the job. (Modular)

— *Madeleine Key*

Roswell Rudd

Trombone for Lovers

Born in 1935, trombonist Roswell Rudd is both a consummate jazz musician and a jazz anomaly. While he got his start playing New Orleans-style traditional jazz, Rudd made his sizable rep playing with the crème de la crème of the Sixties avant-garde, including icons Steve Lacy, Cecil Taylor, and Archie Shepp. But while many players his age are content to stay in their niche, Rudd has continued to expand his repertoire. Since 2000, his albums have featured folk musicians from Mali and Mongolia as well as the entirety of Sonic Youth.

Despite the title, *Trombone for Lovers* is not music for a dim-the-lights smooch session. Rudd puts his instrument where his money is in transforming standards into newly frosted gems. Santo & Johnny's dreamy guitar instrumental "Sleepwalk" is recast as a sultry blues number with Rudd "crooning" brassily through his horn, evoking the Duke Ellington Orchestra's classic Thirties ballads. The cowboy anthem "Ghost Riders in the Sky" becomes a slice of greasy soul jazz with N'awlins overtones, thanks to John Medeski's chunky, high-calorie Hammond B-3 textures. "Green Onions" keeps its funky Memphis groove while Rudd struts jaggedly; former Captain Beefheart guitarist Gary Lucas contributes some nearly demented slide playing, and former Berkeley whiz Steven Bernstein mixes Freddie Hubbard bristle and Louis Armstrong soul. "Tennessee Waltz" alternates between Rudd's burlesquing 'bone and Michael Doucet's country-tinged Cajun fiddle. Rudd pays tribute to the breadth of American music (plus a Beatles chestnut) with affection and satire. If *Lovers* were any more fun, it'd need to require a prescription. (Sunnyside)

— *Mark Keresman*

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Anna Nalick w/ [illegible], Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m. $21

Berkeley Bluegrass [illegible] w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $8-$12

Hoodoo [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $28.50, $30.50

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Happy Hour [illegible], The Marsh Arts Center, 7 p.m., free

[illegible] Quartet, [illegible], 7:30 p.m., free

[illegible] with guest [illegible] singers, the Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible], [illegible] High Club, 7 p.m., $TBA

[illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m. $8

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], The Night Light, 8 p.m., $5

The Lost [illegible], Starry Plough, 8 p.m., and The [illegible] 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, 7 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Orchestra in the loft, The Legionnaire Saloon, 10 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Sound and [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m. $12, $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible], 8:30 p.m. $15

Orquesta Z, Ashkenaz, 8 p.m., $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible], 8:30 p.m., $10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $8

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Quartet, SFJAZZ Center, 7:30 p.m., $25-$45

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 p.m., $21

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $16, $18

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $13-$15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and Texas in July, The Regency Ballroom, 7 p.m. $20, $23

[illegible], 9 p.m., $18, $20

[illegible], 9 p.m., $25, $30

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $15

[illegible], 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Knockout, 10 p.m., $6

[illegible], 7 p.m., $13, $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 p.m., $7-$10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $11

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $5, $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Slim's, 8 p.m., $17, $19

[illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $25, $30

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Rock Bottom, 8 p.m., $7

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 7 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 10 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $8 before 10:30pm, $15 after

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $25-$30

FRIDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m. $7-$10-$15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

[illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50, $22.50

[illegible], 8 p.m., $10

[illegible], 8 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra perform [illegible], St. Joseph the Worker Catholic, 8 p.m., free

[illegible], 8 p.m., $10, $15

[illegible], Berkeley Arts Festival, [illegible]

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible], 8:30 p.m., $10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible], 8:30 p.m., free

[illegible], 7 p.m., and [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $15

[illegible], 7 p.m., free

[illegible] Quartet, First United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m., $15

[illegible], Lafayette Square, 8 p.m., free

[illegible], dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

[illegible], Saint Mary's College [illegible] Activity Center, 5 p.m., $8

[illegible], The Sound Room, 8 p.m., $20, $25

Rock & Pop

[illegible], 8:30 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Night Light, 9 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m., $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Awaken Cafe, 8 p.m., $7

Steve Gadd Band w/ Larry Goldings, Jimmy Johnson, Michael Landau and Walter Fowler, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m.,

Deltron 3030 plays The Fillmore on 11/23

PICKS

Steve Gadd

Few drummers are as versatile and consistently creative as Steve Gadd. "Every drummer wants to play like Gadd because he plays perfect," Chick Corea once stated. The legendary, New York-born musician's signature grooves have anchored the music of Corea, Paul Simon, Al Di Meola, Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Steely Dan, the band called Stuff, the disco productions of Van McCoy, and countless others over the past four decades. Touring in support of a new jazz CD titled *Gadditude*, the 68-year-old drummer will make a rare local appearance as a leader for two nights at Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) in the company of trumpeter Walt Fowler, organist Larry Goldings, guitarist Michael Landau, and bassist Jimmy Johnson, all of whom also work with him in James Taylor's current band. — *Lee Hildebrand*

Friday, Nov. 22 (8 & 10 p.m.) and Saturday, Nov. 23 (7:30 & 9:30 p.m.), $22-$29, Yoshis.com

M. Lockwood Porter

M. Lockwood Porter's willingness to be vulnerable makes him a compelling singer-songwriter. *Judah's Gone*, the Oklahoma native's debut album, is awash in bittersweet melodies. He sings smoothly, plainly, and earnestly, straddling the line between folk and country with twang aplenty. His music explores topics like growing up, nostalgia, regret, loneliness, and the difficulty of creating genuine connections with other people. Direct and uncomplicated songs like "Down at the Lake" and "Tonight" are relatable and comforting: They sound familiar even if you've never heard them before. The Berkeley resident will perform at Awaken Café (1429 Broadway, Oakland) with Bele the Artist, a theatrical folk-rock singer who incorporates her own visual art into her performances, and bluesy folk artist Dounaz. — *Madeleine Key*

Saturday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m., $7, AwakenCafe.com

$23-$30
Acoustica w/ [illegible] Sond Club, 7 p.m., $TBA
Turn Me On Dead w/ Sonykiss, Amalgamation, Ivan [illegible] Room, Sond Club 5 p.m. $6

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Blunt Vibe Onwind w/ [illegible], Alex Kane, Ivan [illegible], with [illegible] performances, The Legionnaire Saloon, 8 p.m. $10
Soul Cheers w/ [illegible] Hugo Monster [illegible] Mike Inde, [illegible] Fools Truth, Ivan Brass Bell, 934 Gilman 7 p.m. $10
Diamondstone [illegible] North, 7 p.m. Ivan

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Babylon's Flamenco La Peña Cultural Center, 5 p.m. $15
Los Drue Jaguar Jupiter 5 p.m. and
Yosek and the Blowcannon Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Omnirod Singleton [illegible] & Blues, 2:30 & 10 p.m. $20
Agree Green Bogart Architects, 6 p.m., [illegible]
Brown Bird [illegible] Cafe, 7:30 p.m., Ivan
Supersonic w/ Comical [illegible] & El West Ivan The Barbary Ghost, Cafe du Nord 8 p.m. $9 $11
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Swedish American Hall 8 p.m., $20

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera Presents The Barber of Seville w/ Giuseppe Finzi conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 8 p.m., $26-$312

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bandit's [illegible] 8 p.m. $30-$35
Black Market Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., $10
Dark Moment w/ Eden Berlin, John Amaya, Bond Graeden & Band [illegible] Johnson,

Frank Ohrig Paul Xlucas PJ Owens, and Ann Magnuson, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $15
Jesse Moreno w/ Cassandra Moore [illegible] 7:30 p.m. $35-$40

Rock & Pop

Gonzo Bruer w/ Hatchet, [illegible], Ivan Midnight Omens, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $10
Glass [illegible] 8:30 p.m., $12, $15
Karaoke w/ 37 [illegible] Ivan Juan Pinedo Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $10
Kate Bruer w/ Fanny the Uncertain The Architects, The Fillmore, 8 p.m. [illegible]
Lucordana w/ Fools Ivan [illegible] The Grove, 8 p.m., $12 $15
Mouse w/ Sleepover and Venus Beltran, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $7
Please [illegible], w/ Small Toll Make-Out Room 7:30 p.m. $8
Pope w/ Public Is Perfect and Bent Shapes, Mama of the Hill 9:30 p.m., $12
Perfect Lies Here w/ Architects, The Kindred and Afflaren, Slim's, 7:30 p.m. $20
The Robbles w/ Modern Riche, Feed Me Jack, and Oh, The Vowels, and The Robbles, 10 Mavor Social House, 8 p.m. and
Yan Morrison w/ Shana Flamenco, Bob Hill Masonic Center, 8 p.m. $69.50/$49/$81.00
Wax Wolves w/ Meta Mother, Opalaine, and 10 Bruer Milk Ivan 8 p.m., $10

Rock Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Moves of Lasecha w/ [illegible], Ivan Thauvay IC, Elbo Bruer 11 p.m., $10-$15
Oakland Ghost Ivan the Company, w/ Bar [illegible] Boat & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $12, $15
That Ivy [illegible] Pacific Ivy [illegible] Building, Ivan [illegible] Goldenstyle, Ivan [illegible] Music, Elbo Lounge, 8 p.m., $25 $30

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Station Best and w/ Dubo 2 Dublin, The Regency Ballroom, 8:30 p.m. $25 $37
The Greens w/ Arnie and Intra Classic, The Independent, 9:30 p.m. sold out
Septeto Nacional de Cuba w/ Ignacio Piñeiro, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $25-$30

SATURDAY 23

EAST BAY

All Ages

Bobby Joe Ebola and the Children MacNuggits The Escapist Comic Bookstore, 5 p.m. and

Blues, Folk, & Country

Shannon Rogalle Cafe Van Kleef, 6 p.m., $TBA
M. Lockwood Porter w/ Bele the Artist and Patrick Patrick, Cafe 8 p.m. $7
Good Mandolin's [illegible] Piano Company, 8 p.m. $17 $20

Classical & Opera

Kieth Baroque Ensemble w/ [illegible] Sutton, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m., $20, $18 seniors Ivan [illegible]

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Mattresses w/ Shady Ghosts, Ivan Sophie Boo Lin, The Night Light, 8 p.m., $8

Gospel & Vocal

A Winter Choral Concert w/ the HNU [illegible] Singers, the HNU University Chorus, Ivan Anne Hege and Alexei Hewitt conducting, Holy Names College, 7:30 p.m., $20, $5 seniors and students

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Birds of Play Cafe Lolla, 7 p.m. and
Christopher Patton Trio High Street Station Cafe, 7 p.m. $10
David Jeffrey Albatross Pub, 8:30 p.m., $5
Madeline Eastman The Sound Room, 8 p.m. $30, $35
Mosaic Blues Ensemble w/ Nesma Thompson, 5th Street Gallery 8:30 p.m. $10
Orion [illegible] Sound Room, 7:00 p.m., free
Patrick Greene Trio Jupiter 8 p.m., free
and Gilman [illegible] with guest [illegible] singers, The Alley, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

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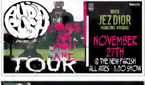
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C&C

Bluesfreak w/ [illegible] and the Vaudevillians, Matt [illegible], and Oakland [illegible]. [illegible] 8 p.m. $6

[illegible] Gospel [illegible] 8 p.m. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] ([illegible]) and [illegible] 8 p.m., $2-$12

Lucy [illegible] w/ [illegible] 8 p.m., $16.50, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 1 p.m. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 8:30 p.m. $10-$20

Zella w/ [illegible] and the Atom Age, The Uptown. 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Hip Hop La Peña [illegible] 10 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 7 p.m. $10-$20

[illegible] Mamaphone on the Hill 7 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ Mohammed Lamine [illegible] 8 p.m. $12, $15

Blues, Folk, & Country

Anne and Pete Sibley w/ [illegible], St. [illegible] 8 p.m. $12

[illegible] Caffe [illegible] 8 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] 12:15 p.m. free

[illegible] 7:30 & 10 p.m., $12

Classical & Opera

[illegible] 8 p.m. $12-$18

New Century [illegible] Presents [illegible] Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. 8 p.m., $25-$50

San Francisco Opera Presents: The Barber of Seville w/ Giuseppe Finzi conducting. War Memorial Opera House. 8 p.m. $26-$312

San Francisco Symphony Presents: [illegible] Annual Symphony w/ [illegible] conducting. Davies Symphony Hall. 8 p.m. $15-$154

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] w/ Stephen [illegible], and [illegible]. Mighty. 10 p.m. $25-$30

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] w/ [illegible], John [illegible], [illegible] Oliver, [illegible] and Ann [illegible]. [illegible] 8 & 11 p.m., $20

Rock & Pop

[illegible] 7 p.m. $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Field of Nation, and [illegible] Oakland and the

Machine, [illegible]. 8 p.m., $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Phil [illegible] and [illegible] Jones, Hemlock Tavern. 8:30 p.m. $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Regency Ballroom. 8 p.m. $23-$28

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], and DJ [illegible]. The Chapel. 8 p.m. $12-$15

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 8 p.m. $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 8 p.m. sold out

The [illegible] w/ The [illegible] and his Rhythm Section. [illegible] Ballroom, and DJ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $15

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] 7:30 p.m. $8

Leo [illegible] w/ [illegible] 9:30 p.m. $10-$12

[illegible] 2 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and DJ [illegible] Music Hall. 9 p.m. $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 9:30 p.m. $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 10 p.m. $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 8 p.m. $20.50-$250.00

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 10 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Alexander [illegible] w/ [illegible] 8 p.m., $8

[illegible] The Fillmore. 8 p.m. $32.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible] 5 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Burlington Lowe w/ Marley Kings, DJ

SAN FRANCISCO

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

1-2-3-4 Go! Records 420 40th St., Oakland. 510-326-0925.

2-Tone Bistro Oakland 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-208-3046.

[illegible] Art Gallery 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-8858.

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926.

Actual Cafe 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-6266.

Air and D Lounge 492 9th St., Lower Bottoms, Oakland. 510-444-2377.

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473.

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8505.

Ashkenaz Music 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.

Anna's [illegible] 2125 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1128.

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.

Awaken Cafe 1429 Broadway, Oakland. 510-863-1440.

The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond. 510-237-1000.

Bench and Bar 510 17th St., Oakland. 510-444-2266.

Brick and Mortar [illegible]

Frank Bette Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda. 510-523-6957.

The [illegible] 1009 B St., Hayward. 510-886-8525.

Cafe Van Kleef 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-763-7711.

Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5198.

Cafe 22 2211 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-268-9426.

Cafe Alegre 408 3rd St., Oakland. 510-463-0157.

Center Stage 3340 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-463-4224.

Cheap Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-2488.

The Boathouse Club 1695 13th St., Oakland. 510-413-8913.

Crowley Pavilion 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. 510-215-6000.

Dorthy's 468 29th St., Oakland. 510-663-1134.

Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda. 510-286-8285.

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-338-4911.

Eli's Mile High Club 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-655-6661.

Era Art Bar & Lounge 19 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-832-4600.

Flowers & Jones Barbeque 126 Bancroft Way, Oakland. 510-663-2350.

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

Forbidden Island Tiki Lounge 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-749-0332.

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-302-2250.

Ginger & Sabroso 2001 Shattuck St., Berkeley. 510-844-2626.

The Greek Theatre 2001 Gayley Rd., Berkeley. 510-642-0988.

Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda. 510-995-8048.

Island Republic Club 1430 Oakland St., Alameda. 510-865-3920.

Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888.

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373.

Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237.

Jelly Patrick's 1913 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-5185.

Julie's Coffee & The Beehive 2225 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2300.

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277.

Kimball's Carnival 670 2nd St., Oakland. 510-444-6400.

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-5464.

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568.

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3565.

The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1881.

The Legionnaire Saloon 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-523-4700.

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-3411.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677.

Mills College [illegible] MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2255.

Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-8565.

New Ketchikan City 1919 Webster St., Alameda. 510-758-4900.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland. 510-444-7474.

The Night Light 311 Broadway, Oakland. 510-832-4413.

Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146.

ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400.

Portuguese Hall [illegible] and San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-547-8190.

Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050.

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland. 510-451-2889.

Rhythmic Cultural Works 2513 Harding Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5080.

The Rich Stand 2745 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Oakland Roadhouse 1700 Oakland Ave., Oakland. 510-331-9292.

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland. 510-444-7224.

Saddle Rack 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont. 510-979-0477.

Shadow Ultra Lounge 391 13th St., Oakland. 510-839-1800.

Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View. 650-967-3000.

Sleep Train Pavilion 2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord. 925-676-8742.

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-1300.

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174.

Subterranean Art House 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-982-2321.

Sweet Fingers 488 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-553-9600.

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100.

Vinyl at Home 420 14th St., Oakland. 510-379-9954.

Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-4290.

White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3820.

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200.

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-9988.

Smoky and Rouses, Mezzanine, 8 p.m. $25-$40

The Grooves/ Solomond Bobo Sixteen, **The Independent,** 9:30 p.m., sold out

La Gabelo w/ La Gozalo and DJ **Ritmo Inter** Salon Tiber Street, 9:30 p.m., $10, $15

SUNDAY 24

EAST BAY

All Ages

Infinito Camp Bella Showcase Bella Plaza, 4 p.m., free

Blues, Folk, & Country

Banjo Man Stork Club, 1 p.m., $TBA

B.E. White and the All-Stars Piedmont Salon Company, 4 p.m., $15

Sunday Morning Salon with Bev Rollo, Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Classical & Opera

Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra perform Charles Gounod's St. Cecilia Mass, Whitney/Williams' American St. Music, Franz Schubert's An Die Musik, D 547, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Bach Results, Westside St. Joseph the Worker Church, 4:30 p.m., free

Book Whereas Square, Dinkelspiel Hall, 3 p.m., tickets start at $10

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Beauty School w/ Gestalten, Berkeley Arts Festival, 8 p.m., $10-$20

Cabinets Gazell a variety show w/ Noodle Beauty, Stillwell, **Walter Spider Kayla** Gage, Hanna's Jazz Trio, Callas Genome, and Bee, 924 Gilman, 5 p.m., $8

Infinito Infinite Mile w/ music by Mop van Orsum, Nilston Rodriguez, The Miscreants Chili, Heartless Folk, Sambe Sisters, Apogee Sound Club, Wheelman Sequin, Gravetower and Jerry Lindsay, Firehouse Art Collective, 3 p.m., $TBA

Gospel & Vocal

Valli Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $28.50, $26.50

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazz and R&B Night Dorsey's Locker, 6-10 p.m., free

Jeff and Claudia Sessa High Noon Station Cafe, 3 p.m., free

John Schott Actual Cafe, 8 p.m., free

Woodside Women a Big Band Yoshi's Oakland, 7 p.m., $23, $12 Women

Pamela Rose and Wayne de La Cruz Jazzschool, 4:30 p.m., $45, $12 for students and Women

The Saint Michelangelo Concerts 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Dee Rockett Kingpin's Sports Bar & Grill, 5 p.m., free

Social Club w/ Dennis, All Your Sisters, and The Big Machine and Neal Lebow, The Night Light, 8 p.m., $6

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Sundays in Oakland Chicago-style "steppin'" w/ Brown/Bonds at 2 p.m., Fireball's Carnival, 2-7 p.m., DJ Grove 4 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Elephant Man and Meg Burton w/ One Street, Snaky, Young Poets and DJ Karman, The and Parish, 11 p.m., $25-$30

Sonando Tambonda La Peña Cultural Center, 3 p.m., free

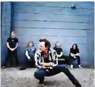
SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

461 Sunday Western Swing Amnesia, 7 p.m., $7, $10

Dan DeLuge w/ Midnight Mike and The Californio Sons, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8, $10

Fat City Hoods w/ Country Countdown, Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., free



Pearl Jam plays The Oracle Arena on 11/26

Danny Clinch

Jasper T. and Sonos, B. 50 Green Social Infinito, 7 p.m., and

Sam Chambers Westfield Salon, 7-8 p.m., $18

The Shivering Lillies feat. Lily Sorensen w/ Max Little and the Thenestones, Erika B Infinito Music Hall, 7 p.m., $10

Tony Saunders Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony performs Gluck: Alpine Symphony w/ Semyon Bychkov conducting, Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $15-$150

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Brunch with Green Perfect B morning gospels, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $20, includes brunch

Lyrellic and Bridgette Bailey w/ Solev Torre, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $27

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Avant Infinito w/ Randy Weston and Billy Harper, SFJAZZ Center, 7 p.m., $25-$65

Rock & Pop

2AM Olive/ The Bonanza Set, Wallpaper and Point Intra Fifth, The Fillmore, 7 p.m., $22.50

Green Prophet w/ Kelley Street, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $20

A Roller Big World w/ Tribe, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10, $15

Mercury in Underground w/ Bitter Fruit and Children Summit, DNA, 8 p.m., $6-$10

SF Rock Beauty Thee Parkside, noon, $8

The Art is Dinosaur w/ Tilmans War: Fit for An Autopsy, The Last Ten Seconds of Life, and Rabbit Rock, Slim Lounge, 6:30 p.m., $10, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Return of the Oyster w/ local emcees, Showcase, Anatolist, and FM, Salon Parlor Dorfeld, 9 p.m., and

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Salsa Sunday w/ a rotating lineup of salsa bands and DJ Emotions, El Rio, 4 p.m., $8 Groove 4pm, $10 after

MONDAY 25

EAST BAY

Gospel & Vocal

Wallet3 w/ Anthems, Joey Street, and Elder Burns, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $18.50, $20.50

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Sonando Freedom Jazz Society Concerts, 8 p.m., $50

Valerie Infinito Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The Cod Brothers Amnesia, 5 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Afrin Kali Manse and Peter Green SFJAZZ Center, 7:30 p.m., $40

La Jazz Sol La Gitanita, 7 p.m., free

Boise Domes The Session Biscuits & Street, 7:30 p.m., $12

Rock & Pop

AWOO w/ Surf Club, Tarnes, and Professional Fan Tilt, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10, $12

Social Woman w/ Ash Hader and The She's, Book & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $6

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

San Francisco Symphony with Mission Cord Infinito, Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $35-$150

TUESDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Tal Wy The Anthems, 9:30 p.m., $10

Gospel & Vocal

Progeny Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $20

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Randy Craig Trio Caffe Trieste, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free

Bad Cabaret Infinito jazz with guest Gravelle singing, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Hall of Rosey w/ OrangeMango, The Happys, and POON, Stork Club, 8 p.m., $6

Pearl Jam Oracle Arena, 7:30 p.m., $68.25

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Mellow Highs w/ Naddy Bernie, Salsa Camino, and Left Plaza of Old Palace, The Bee Parish, 8 p.m., $15, $20

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THE GHOST INSIDE, VILLAINS, TEXAS IN JULY
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C&C

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Lovin' Law The Layover, 10 p.m., $TBA

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bart Thompson And the Roadsters Biscuits & Blues, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $15

Greg Heiden Plough and Stars, 9 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera presents: The Barber of Seville w/ Giuseppe [illegible] conducting, War Memorial Opera House, 8 p.m., $26-$512

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Revolution Cafe, 8:30 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The Jimmy [illegible] Big Band w/ Tony Lindsay, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $32

Rock & Pop

French Cassettes w/ [illegible] Vipers and Westminster, Amnesia, 9:15 p.m., $7

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], Amnesia, 6:30 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $8

In This Moment w/ Motionless In White, Kyng, and All Hail the Yeti, The Regency Ballroom, 7 p.m., $22.50, $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Chapel, 9 p.m., $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 7:30 p.m., $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Dr. Mojo Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., free

WEDNESDAY 27

EAST BAY

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe, 7 p.m., $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible] Roadhouse, 8-10 p.m., free

[illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m., free

[illegible], and [illegible] w/ [illegible], Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] and friends The Marsh Arts Center, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Oakland Metro Operahouse, 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The New Parish, 9:30 p.m., $15, $18

John Legend w/ [illegible], Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m., $49.50-$79.50

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae [illegible], [illegible], 7:15 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Amnesia, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] Jazz Session Amnesia, 10 p.m., free

International String Trio w/ [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible], Top of the Mark, 8 p.m., $[illegible]

The Amnesiacs Amnesia, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $15-$20

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], 9:30 p.m., free

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], 50 Mason Social House, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $[illegible]

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $6

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $10-$12

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] Night w/ [illegible] & special guests, [illegible], 10 p.m., $[illegible]

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

50 Mason Social House 50 Mason St., 415-433-5050

111 Minna Gallery 111 Minna St., 415-974-1719

1015 Folsom 1015 Folsom St., 415-431-1200

Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012

Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200

Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620

Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St., 415-285-0323

Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365

Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583

Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St., 415-673-8000

Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455

Brick & Mortar Music Hall 1710 Mission St., [illegible]

[illegible] 2389 Mission St., 415-[illegible]

Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016

Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Vallejo St., 415-[illegible]

Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-[illegible]

The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678

The Chapel 777 Valencia St., 415-551-5157

Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000

DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409

Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592

Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074

El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325

Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788

The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999

The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000

Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750

Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923

[illegible] 601 Van Ness Ave., 415-[illegible]

Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300

The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421

Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777

The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994

Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202

Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888

Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880

Mighty 119 Utah St., 415-762-0151

Milk Bar 1840 Haight St., 415-387-6455

[illegible] 101 6th St., 415-284-9774

The Mission Room 65 West Portal Ave., 415-[illegible]

Brainwash [illegible] 1122 Folsom St., 415-[illegible]

Nob Hill Masonic Center 1111 California St., 415-776-7457

Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238

Park Chalet Brewery 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439

[illegible] [illegible] Powell St., 415-[illegible]

Public Works 161 Erie St., 415-932-0955

Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695

The Regency Ballroom 1290 Sutter St. / 1300 Van Ness Ave., [illegible]

[illegible] Lounge [illegible], 415-[illegible]

Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011

The Riptide 3639 Taraval St., 415-681-8433

[illegible] 1000 Van Ness Ave.

Ruby Skye 420 Mason St., 415-693-0777

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-[illegible]

SFJAZZ Center 201 Franklin St., 866-920-5299

Skylark 3089 16th St., 415-621-9294

Slim's 333 11th St., 415-255-0333

Sub/Mission Gallery 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227

[illegible] [illegible] Mission St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Howard St., 415-[illegible]

Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330

Top of the Mark 999 California St., 415-616-6916

Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-[illegible]

The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722

Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 21

EAST BAY

Funk Jr. down-home happy hour. The Legionnaire Saloon, 5:30 p.m., free
Deep East Lounge 3411, 9 p.m., free
DJ & spinning Fingers's Sports Bar & Grill, 10 p.m., free
DJ Lady Ryan Jupiter, 8 p.m., free
DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-bending rock, and urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Foreign [illegible] and [illegible] spinning hip-hop, soul, and disco. The Legionnaire Saloon, 10 p.m., free
Hip Operation with DJ [illegible]. The Layover, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ resident [illegible] the Vinyl [illegible] guest DJs. Vinyl [illegible] Venue, Oakland, 10 p.m., free [illegible] 10 p.m., $5 after.
The Jump Off: Hip-Hop w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$15
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Lounge, and [illegible]. The Rock Steady, 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, soca, and hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] rock, [illegible] salsa [illegible] Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
So [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B [illegible] Afrobeat. Era Art Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Friday [illegible] White Horse Inn, 10 p.m.-midnight, free
[illegible] w/ The [illegible] free and [illegible]. [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m., TBA
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. The Uptown, 9 p.m., $5

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Thursdays DJs [illegible] spin [illegible] pop, rock, and one [illegible] Cat Club, 9 p.m., free inside, 9:30 p.m., $5
[illegible] [illegible] Mighty, 10 p.m., $10 [illegible] 11pm
[illegible] w/ [illegible] music, [illegible] and Mr. Smith. DNA Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $15
[illegible] [illegible] Club [illegible]/[illegible]. DJ [illegible] Dub Gabriel, [illegible] Dance [illegible] DJ Sep, DJ Dragonfly, and more. $15 [illegible], 7 p.m., suggested donation $10-$20
[illegible] LGBT [illegible] celebration party. The Cellar, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] Park California Academy of Sciences, 6 p.m., $12

FRIDAY 22

EAST BAY

[illegible] Year Anniversary [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] Stranded [illegible]. Cafe Van Kleef, 4 p.m., free
[illegible] Shop [illegible] Music [illegible] Caribbean City, 4 p.m.
DJ & spinning Fingers's Sports Bar & Grill, 10 p.m., $5
DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free
DJ [illegible] [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] Fridays [illegible] DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, and reggae. New Caribbean City, 9 p.m., $5 [illegible] until 1 a.m.
Steady, w/ DJ [illegible] The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Friday Night [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning salsa. La [illegible] Cafe, 10 p.m., $5
Friday [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] 10 p.m., $5
Rock [illegible] Art Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., TBA
Hip-Hop [illegible] w/ [illegible] Club 1220, 9 p.m., $5
Rock of [illegible] w/ [illegible] the Vinyl [illegible], and more. The Rock Steady, 10 p.m., free
Old-School hip-hop and funk. [illegible], 9 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ spinning [illegible] sounds from the Caribbean. La Peña Cultural Center, 10 p.m., $5
[illegible] Fridays DJ [illegible] R&B & [illegible] Carnival, 9 p.m., $5
World Beat Fridays featuring DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, [illegible], Arabic music, & more. [illegible] Lounge, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Vapor City, [illegible] Juwel, [illegible] and more. 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $15, $30
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Mighty, 10 p.m., $20
[illegible] w/ [illegible] Williams, [illegible], and Miguel [illegible], Monarch, 9:30 p.m., $12-$18
[illegible] Players w/ [illegible] & Albert, J. Philip, Lady [illegible] Worthy, [illegible] 9 p.m., $10 happy 11pm, $20
DJ [illegible] [illegible] rock, piano. Madrone Art Bar, 6-9 p.m., free
[illegible] [illegible] and The [illegible]. The Knockout, 10 p.m., free
The [illegible] and [illegible] DJ [illegible] 6 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible], and Book Kraft. Public Works, 9:30 p.m., $13-$17
Friday Live w/ DJ [illegible] 10 p.m., free
I [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, house, dancehall, grunge, [illegible]. Madrone Art Bar, 9 p.m., $5 after 10 p.m.
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and guests. [illegible] Room, 10 p.m., $5
[illegible] International DJs [illegible] reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab, 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] [illegible] The [illegible], 10 p.m., $10

SATURDAY 23

EAST BAY

[illegible] DJs spinning [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible], 10 p.m., free
The [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] music, 2 p.m., free
Club [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. [illegible], 9 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m.
[illegible] Saturdays w/ [illegible] spinning music, [illegible], & hip-hop. The Avenue, 9 p.m., free
DJ & spinning Fingers's Sports Bar & Grill, 10 p.m., $5
DJ [illegible] [illegible] Summer, 9 p.m., free
DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, funk, indie, & [illegible]. The [illegible] Lounge, 9:30 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible], hip-hop, and soul. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., $10
Magic [illegible] [illegible] & guests [illegible]. [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., $5 after 11pm
Reggae Night w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible]. The Legionnaire Saloon, 9:30 p.m., $5
[illegible] Saturdays [illegible] The [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible] and [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 [illegible] 11 p.m., $10 after
[illegible] Oakland monthly [illegible] party [illegible]. The [illegible], 9 p.m., $5 [illegible], $7 after

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Annual [illegible] Thanksgiving w/ [illegible], DJ [illegible], DJ [illegible] Robinson, DJ [illegible], and more. [illegible], 9 p.m., $15-$20
[illegible] SF mashup night. DNA Lounge, 9 p.m., $15-$20
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning the [illegible] Bay Area club [illegible], 10 p.m., free [illegible] 11 p.m., with [illegible]
[illegible] Daze w/ [illegible] Shiny Objects, [illegible] Majesty & [illegible], and Colombo [illegible], Monarch, 9 p.m., $10-$15
DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible] post-punk, 9 p.m., free
DJ [illegible] w/ DJs spinning [illegible], [illegible], salsa, [illegible], and salsa dance-pop. [illegible] Room, 10 p.m., $5
[illegible] SF: [illegible] Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Party [illegible]. [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $8-$15
[illegible] women's dance party w/ [illegible], [illegible] spinning [illegible], dancehall, salsa, merengue, cumbia, samba, and reggaeton. [illegible], 9:30 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & Lucky spinning [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] music, 9 p.m., free [illegible] 10 pm, $5
[illegible] International DJs [illegible] music, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab, 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ Bay Area Latin DJs. 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 10 p.m., $10 until 10:30pm, $20 after

SUNDAY 24

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] [illegible] party Lounge, 6 p.m., free
[illegible] [illegible] soul-jazz happy hour w/ [illegible], [illegible] 6 p.m., free
[illegible] Sundays w/ DJ [illegible] Palmer [illegible]. [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m., $15, $20
Salsa [illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] Sports, salsa [illegible] lesson, [illegible] 3 p.m., $8
Sunday [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible], John Early and more. The [illegible], 6 a.m.-8 p.m., $10
[illegible] [illegible] party w/ [illegible] women, The Knockout, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] [illegible] Bootrock [illegible], 10 p.m., free
[illegible] spinning [illegible] of the [illegible] music, punk, [illegible], country, [illegible] hip-hop. [illegible], 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] Lucky & [illegible] spinning [illegible], dancehall, [illegible] reggae, [illegible], 8:30 p.m., free
[illegible] Sundays w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '70s boogie, jazz, Latin, and Afrobeat. [illegible], 10 p.m., free

MONDAY 25

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] The Layover, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] on Mondays w/ [illegible]. The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free
Underground Lounge [illegible] '70s music [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning [illegible], [illegible], dancehall, and [illegible]. DNA Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $5, $8
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. Monarch, 10 p.m., free

Danny Daze performs at Monarch on 11/23.

TUESDAY 26

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] The Legionnaire Saloon, 10 p.m., free
DJ [illegible] spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave, & more. The Bootrock Lounge, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., TBA
[illegible] [illegible] music. The Legionnaire Saloon, 7 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] DJs [illegible] spin funky soul, [illegible], [illegible] San Francisco [illegible], & more. The Knockout, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] Room, 9:30 p.m., free
Old-School [illegible] [illegible] Little [illegible], 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ The [illegible], & [illegible] MC [illegible], [illegible] ground, 10 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible]. 10 p.m., free inside, 10:30pm, $5 inside, 11pm, $10 after

WEDNESDAY 27

EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] and [illegible]. The Rock Steady, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Ms. [illegible], Era Art Bar and Lounge, 10 p.m., free w/ [illegible] canned good
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible] music. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 6 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. The Layover, 9 p.m., free
Thanksgiving music, Night [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., $7
[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins everything from [illegible] to punk rock, from the '50s through the '90s. [illegible] Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Underground [illegible] Sessions spinning deep house, [illegible], hip-hop, [illegible], Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., $7 before [illegible], $10 after
World [illegible] Wednesday w/ DJ [illegible]. [illegible] Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

4 All w/ [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible]. Public Works, 9 p.m., $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Cooper, [illegible], and [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m., $17
[illegible] w/ [illegible], DJ Justin, and [illegible]. Bootrock [illegible], 9 p.m., $7
DJ [illegible] spinning salsa & reggaeton, Little [illegible], 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible], DJ [illegible], [illegible] Club, Monarch, 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] Wednesday DJs [illegible], and [illegible] spin [illegible], hip-hop, boogie, funk, & soul. [illegible], 10 p.m., $5 ■

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SAVAGE LOVE

BASICS, BITCHES

On sexual compatibility and potentially dangerous fantasies.

By Dan Savage

I'm a heterosexual guy in my early twenties. I've been dating my girlfriend for about six months, and we've been having some fights recently. The problem: I have a high sex drive in comparison to hers. I want to be intimate on a weekly basis (at least!), and she's told me that she's more of a once-every-three-weeks-or-so person. I'm trying not to put pressure on her. I don't want her to feel uncomfortable — she's a virgin (no penetration), and the thought of the pain of that first time scares her a lot. That said, physical intimacy with her — developing that bond, even without intercourse — is important to me and a key part of what I believe is a healthy relationship. I do my best to be understanding, but I'm not sure how to bridge this gap.

Love Is Building Intimacy During Outset

While it's great that you're understanding of your girlfriend's sensitivities, LIBIDO, and while it's commendable that you view nonpenetrative sex as fulfilling, you're running the risk of "understanding" her into a relationship that makes you both unhappy. Because someone who wants sex multiple times per week will eventually be made miserable by someone who wants sex far less than once a month (which is what the "or so" at the end of "once-every-three-weeks-or-so" means) and vice versa — being with you will make your girlfriend miserable in the long run, too.

I get e-mails daily from miserable people on both sides of this divide, LIBIDO: from people with high libidos who married lows and from people with low libidos who married highs. The highs are miserable because years of sexual rejection have shredded their sexual self-esteem, or they feel like monsters after years of being "indulged" with going-through-the-motions sex by barely willing and clearly miserable partners. The lows are miserable because going through the motions makes them miserable or they're sick of constantly being pestered for sex and made to feel inadequate or broken when they pass.

You're young and straight, LIBIDO, and the culture tells the young and the straight that they must be monogamous (because sex is so important) and that they shouldn't take sexual compatibility into consideration when picking a partner (because sex is so unimportant). Other shit matters, too, of course — stuff like emotional compatibility, similar life goals, being on the same page about kids, etc. But basic sexual compatibility matters, too, and its absence will eventually undermine everything else.

By which I mean to say, LIBIDO: You've been dating this girl long enough to know that you're not a match — you're not sexually compatible — and that's reason enough to end this relationship.

My boyfriend and I are in our mid/early twenties. We have been dating for a little over ten months. We have a strong emotional bond and are always communicative and honest with anything and everything. We have an amazing and adventurous sex life, and we have been fantasizing about cuckolding for about two months. We are both extremely turned on by the idea, but I have reservations about doing this in such a young relationship. Unlike married couples who have years to lay an emotional foundation, my boyfriend and I have less to fall back on. I am excited by the idea of this, but I am scared I will end up feeling used. I am also afraid he will not be able to handle the reality of the humiliation. It turns him on to talk about it, but he has never done this. What happens if we are emotionally wrecked afterward? I'm afraid we're playing with fire. I love him and do not want to lose him, but this is something that excites both of us. What should we do?

Young And Restless Duo

Cuckolding realities are a lot more challenging than cuckolding fantasies — emotionally and logistically. So you're right to be nervous, YARD. But relationship longevity doesn't guarantee cuckolding success. Good communication, mutual desire (so fucking important with this fantasy!), and a commitment to take things slowly-bordering-on-glacially are far better predictors of success. And if you take it slow — if you limit your cuckolding play to dirty talk for ten months at least — you'll have more of that experience/trust/security stuff to fall back on if and when you find the right bull/stud/lover.

I'm a 24-year-old lesbian, and I have been with my girlfriend for almost three years. We have both been GGG about things to do with each other in the bedroom, and I'm generally happy with our sex life. Since I am e-mailing you, though, there is a "but." She is bi and has always wanted to have a threesome with a guy and another girl. I am all for that in theory, but I have a hard time emotionally. I have anxiety. I'm in therapy and on medication, and even still it's really difficult for me to wrap my head around sex with new people. I would spend the entire time silently freaking out. I am not sure how I feel about her getting fucked by someone else, even if she's fucking me at the same time. I really want to do this for her, but I don't want it to go poorly because of my issues. Do you have any advice for navigating something like this that your partner really wants but you don't? For how to get game not just in letter but in spirit?

Having Anxiety Raises Difficulties

I'm going to give you the same answer I gave YARD: Talk about it, fantasize about it, be open to it, but take it glacially. Guys who are interested in screwing two women aren't that difficult to find, HARD, so trust that the right guy — one who makes you comfortable, one who is unthreatening — will come into your lives at some point. If you're worried about how you might react to watching your girlfriend have sex with that special someone else, she shouldn't have intercourse with that special someone else the first time you get together. Make out, roll around, engage in a little mutual masturbation. If that feels good — if it doesn't make you anxious or freak you out — make a plan to get together again.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage
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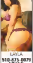
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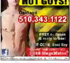
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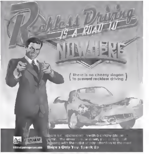
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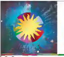

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